THE EXPAT’S GUIDE TO EDUCATION & SCHOOLS IN Abu Dhabi
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INTRODUCTION

Every year more expats move to Abu Dhabi in search of tax-free wealth minus the constant commercial frenzy found in Dubai. Once a desert outpost dependent on pearl diving and palm gardening, the emirate has grown at a tremendous rate, emerging as an attractive destination that lures foreigners from around the globe. Even with the after-effects of the global financial crisis and a drop in oil prices, the emirate’s economy is expected to continue to grow.

Despite its rapid modernisation, life in Abu Dhabi unravels at a slower pace than in many of the world’s foremost destinations; and the United Arab Emirates capital is often characterised as being more family friendly and better suited to long-term living than Dubai. Expat parents may even find that living in the emirate can be strangely similar to the wholesome, sheltered sitcoms of the 1950s. The city is known for being safe, everybody seems to know each other, and expats can easily access almost all of the amenities they'd expect from a Western destination – the city offers great entertainment and healthcare facilities, well-kept roads and lavish accommodation.

One of the biggest challenges for expat parents is often having their children placed at their school of choice. Spaces at schools are in chronically short supply and parents laugh about bringing their sleeping bags to admission day openings – ensuring the necessary steps are taken to secure a seat in the best institutions can be a major source of anxiety. Indian schools, in particular, have trouble accommodating the growing number of interested students, while primary schools are also notorious for denying students due to unavailability. Even waiting lists can be winding, and though efforts have been made to open new international schools in recent years, space is still limited.

Expats shouldn’t be afraid to ask their employer to help them secure a seat for their child, especially if they’ve been hired in a senior position. Applications and admission requirements are usually posted on school websites, and the enrolment process should be started as early as possible.

Those who’ve already moved to Abu Dhabi should note that school sign-up days are generally in the first week of February, and be mindful that queues at the city’s most elite schools really can start as early as the day before. Parents who can’t immediately get a place for their child at their school of their choice should be patient; student turnover is high and places do become available throughout the year. Sending two children to the same school is a good tactic for climbing the waiting list, and in some cases, qualifying for tuition deductions.

British, American and International Baccalaureate schools tend to be the most expensive, with the highest fees at more than 100,000 AED per year. Inclusions of school allowances are less common than they used to be in expat packages, so expats should ensure their salary is large enough to cover the costs.
PRIVATE SCHOOLS

There are around 190 private schools that adhere to 15 different curricula and serve more than 240,000 students in Abu Dhabi. According to the Abu Dhabi Education Council, there may be as many 62,000 new students by the year 2020, requiring 52 new private schools. A mushrooming expat community that doesn’t have access to the public school system has resulted in an intimidating range of options that still may be insufficient.

The standard of facilities, the teaching style, curriculum and teaching language vary immensely between schools. Most expat parents end up choosing a school that follows a curriculum similar to the education system in their home country. But it’s nonetheless important to conduct a fair amount of research beforehand.

While not all private schools in Abu Dhabi adhere to a specific standard, it is fair to say that certain schools in the emirate offer a brand of education that can land students at top-level universities anywhere in the world.

Although there is no standardised test that allows parents to compare and contrast the quality of schools, the Abu Dhabi Education Council (ADEC) is responsible for evaluating all schools and increasing access to high quality private education in the emirate. In short, parents have excellent choices for their children’s education while they live abroad.

The school-going age for children in Abu Dhabi starts at three, turning four; however, schools usually also accept first-year applications for kids who are four going on five. Students finish their final year of school in Abu Dhabi at 18, at which point they can opt to apply to tertiary institutions.

Arabic is a required course at all schools, though no subject testing will be completed in this language – students only need to display basic proficiency.

ADMISSIONS AND ENROLMENT

Even after narrowing down the few institutions that would suit their children, Abu Dhabi is infamous among expats for seat shortages and waiting lists – at times there simply haven’t been enough facilities to accommodate the growing population.

School admissions generally open in January, and physical sign-up days are usually hosted in the first week of February; although this naturally varies depending on the institution. For the most part, schools make it straightforward for parents to find out when and how they need to apply. It is usually a matter of consulting the school’s website or, when in need of more information, contacting the school via email or telephone.
When it comes to enrolment, some schools are more selective than others. Some give preference to students of a particular nationality; some require that students pass an entrance exam; and sometimes companies may even reserve spaces in certain schools in advance for their employees.

In general, expats will want to make sure that they have the following documents in order to apply for admission to the school of their choice:

- Completed school application form
- Completed health form
- Copies of student's passport photos
- Copies of student’s passport or resident visa
- Copies of mother/father's passport or resident visa
- Copy of original birth certificate
- Recent reports from previous school
- Transfer certificate certified by the UAE Education Zone
- School references

Some schools only grant admission during the designated period, while others have rolling admissions policies granting entrance whenever space becomes available throughout the year. So, even if a place can’t initially be found, parents should stay positive. After all, Abu Dhabi is a transient place, and spots can open up just as quickly as they can close. That said, it’s crucial that expats apply to more than one school so that their child has a seat somewhere at the start of the school year.

Expats who decide to move to the emirate without securing a slot for their children should keep in constant contact with school administrators, put the word out on expat forums and networks, and utilise any company contacts that can facilitate the process – one never knows when another family has to repatriate.

**TUITION AND FEES**

Annual tuition for a private school in Abu Dhabi is expensive. Costs generally vary between institutions and increase as the grades progress. Parents are usually required to pay a registration fee, part of which is sometimes refundable or put towards school fees. Supplementary costs for things like uniforms, bus service, stationery and school materials are also expenses that should be considered.

It is essential for expat parents to factor all of these costs into their annual budget, especially as the concept of a “lucrative expat package” is more modest than it used to be. Some companies do still provide education allowances for families with kids, while others grant a general living allowance that is inflated to cover school expenses. Many companies will not, however – in which case an expat’s salary will need to be large enough to cover the costs of educating their children. But expats shouldn’t be afraid to push for an allowance, since the worst their employer could do is refuse.

Most fees are due at the beginning of a school year, and while it isn’t common practice to allow payments over an extended period of time, it is occasionally allowed.
SCHOOL TERMS AND SCHOOL DAY

All schools in the UAE have to comply with a uniform three-term school calendar that’s laid out by the UAE Ministry of Education. Dates differ slightly from year to year, but the general structure remains the same and students have to attend school for 189 days in the year. Thankfully, the dates leave space for expats to escape the heat of summer in August, as well as allowing for an end of the year holiday.

- Autumn term – early September to early December
- Spring term – early January to late March
- Summer term – mid-April to early July

Most schools have on-site cafeterias where students can eat lunch brought from home, or where they can purchase a cooked meal in cash. Students are generally not allowed to leave school premises during this time.

The school week runs from Sunday to Thursday, and school hours vary depending on the institution, but do not start earlier than 7.30am and generally don’t run later than 2.45pm.

LOGISTICS: UNIFORMS, BUS SERVICES AND TEXTBOOKS

Even if their new school upholds their home country’s curriculum, teaching language and education philosophy, expat parents and children will both most likely have to get used to a few nuances.

Students in Abu Dhabi often have to wear uniforms, which can usually be bought at a school shop or designated school uniform store. Many schools frown upon unhealthy snacks and some don’t allow fizzy drinks or sweets onto the campus at all. Additionally, parents may need to purchase materials that are not easy to come by in the UAE, but which are necessary for their child’s education.

Finally, some schools may offer a bus service at an extra charge, but many will not – leaving expat parents to contend with Abu Dhabi’s traffic congestion and notorious driving practices.

HOMESCHOOLING

Though homeschooling was virtually unheard of in the Middle East until fairly recently – Abu Dhabi included – there is a network of parents in the emirate who have decided to educate their children at home with the help of online academic systems and support groups. Homeschooling should not be seen as an alternative for parents still trying to gain admission for their children into the school of their choice, however.

Officially, the Ministry of Education does not recognise homeschooling, and while it does not prevent it, it also doesn’t regulate it. In practice, the ministry’s stance on homeschooling fluctuates, and while the time a child is
schooled at home may be recognised in some cases, in other cases it won’t – meaning that children often need to repeat grades if they enrol in a UAE private school.

Parents considering homeschooling their children in Abu Dhabi should carefully weigh the pros and cons of their decision, and consult with organisations that offer support and advice for parents who homeschool or are considering educating their children at home. The most prominent is the Abu Dhabi Homeschoolers Association, which can be found online.

**NURSERY SCHOOLS**

Expat parents with little ones too young to start primary school or kindergarten will find plenty of options for nursery schools in Abu Dhabi, including alternative models such as the Montessori approach. Parents should, however, be prepared to pay high fees. Nurseries accept children from as young as four weeks to as old as five years, but each institution has its own age requirements.

Alternatively, parents who decide to keep their little ones at home should be aware that most playgroups in the emirate are more suited to younger toddlers. There are other parents in the same boat though, and there are plenty of activities that can be enjoyed together. The Abu Dhabi Mums Group is a well-known resource for parents with young children.

**TERTIARY EDUCATION**

Higher education in the emirate has been prioritised as part of its Abu Dhabi Economic Vision 2030 strategy, as it works towards becoming a sustainable, knowledge-based economy. Some of the government’s primary aims include improving the quality of and access to education, investing in innovative research and improving the management of the sector as it strives to raise the quality of tertiary education in the emirate to international standards.

Higher Education Institutions (HEI) operating in Abu Dhabi are divided into Federal HEIs which are funded by the UAE, Non-Federal HEIs which are funded at emirate level, and Private HEIs.

While expats are certainly entitled to apply and to pay to attend one of the 23 institutions in the emirate, including portal campuses of New York University and Paris Sorbonne University, foreigners usually opt to receive tertiary level education in their home country or abroad.
“COULD FUTURE TECHNOLOGY ALLOW US TO LEARN WHILST WE SLEEP?”

RIMAS
STUDENT AT ALDAR ACADEMIES

Some students are waiting for the future to happen. Others are already beginning to think how they can shape it. At Aldar Academies, we help our students to understand that the future is theirs. Theirs to define. Theirs to improve. And ultimately, theirs to shape.

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO APPLY TO ANY OF OUR SEVEN ACADEMIES, VISIT ALDARACADEMIES.COM

A FUTURE SHAPED BY OUR CHILDREN
TIPS FOR CHOOSING A SCHOOL FOR YOUR CHILD

Whether a seasoned expat who has had to sift through countless school choices or a first-time assignee who’s never had to do much more than pack lunches, it’s always a good idea to consider a few key principles when deciding about a child’s education.

Luckily, the choices are narrowed down because foreigners don’t have access to public education in Abu Dhabi; but there are still many decisions to be made when it comes to the curriculum, teaching philosophy, extra-curricular facilities and the general experience offered by individual schools.

THE EXPERIENTIAL ELEMENT

This is not typically the first thing on an expat parent’s mind, but it is an important element that’s worth serious consideration. Relocation can be challenging for young students and it isn’t strange for parents to ask how moving might affect their children’s lives. It is a normal anxiety that many expats deal with, and the best way for parents to address it is to think carefully about their child’s preparedness for a new school context and their ability to enjoy, succeed and grow.

Anything radically different from a child’s previous experience must be considered with great care. It is important for parents who plan on moving overseas to evaluate their children’s needs and abilities and try to find a school that best aligns with their priorities. If a child has special needs, parents need to be certain that a prospective school can cater for them. Similarly, it is important for a school to offer courses or activities that develop and foster a child’s interests and talents.

CURRICULUM

Most expats tend to choose a curriculum that aligns with that of their home country, but it is also important to make sure that the curriculum is challenging enough for their children. This point is central to the decision-making process, especially for parents with kids in secondary school approaching the time when college applications begin.

Those with older kids should find out about the standardised test the curriculum is geared toward as well as which diploma is granted upon graduation. It is worth noting, for instance, that the International Baccalaureate curriculum is recognised in many countries.

Besides these fundamentals, it is also important to have a close look at the extra-curricular options a school offers. The best institutions will have a balanced blend of sports programmes, encourage their students to take part in community activities, and offer a range of cultural activities such as art, debating and music.
TEACHERS AND CLASS SIZES

A school is only as good as its teachers, who are arguably the determining factor that influences a child’s education and development. Though it can be difficult to find out how “good” a teacher is, there are some basic questions that parents can ask to draw some general conclusions.

Find out about the qualifications the school requires its teachers to have and whether it encourages them to take part in professional development courses. Find out about the average teacher turnover and, above all else, find out about the average class size. Even the best teachers can become swallowed by a giant sea of eager students.

Lastly, visit the school and meet the teacher to find out how friendly, enthusiastic and knowledgeable they are about the school and its curriculum.

PROXIMITY

Parents must also consider geographic proximity and the travel time to and from school. Although traffic congestion in the emirate isn’t nearly as difficult-to-handle as in cities like Bangkok and Shanghai, it still exists, and long commute with little ones in the backseat can be challenging.

Expats should also be wary of Abu Dhabi drivers, some of whom are notorious for emulating Formula One racers, even when going through roundabouts. Thick fog presents an additional danger, resulting in multiple-car pile-ups on the freeway far too regularly; avoiding such routes and spending as little time behind the wheel as possible can reduce the risks and the tension.

NURSERY SCHOOLS

Expats will have access to a wide range of options when it comes to having their little ones taken care of in the UAE capital. Numerous nursery schools and kindergartens in Abu Dhabi are aimed at foreigners, and take various approaches. Some of the most prominent ones are listed below.

Teddy Bear American Nursery
Gender: Co-educational
Teaching Language: English
One of the first kindergartens to open in Khalifa City A, the Teddy Bear American Nursery has provided a play-filled nursery experience since 2008. Facilities include a gym, well-equipped themed indoor and outdoor play areas and a music room. The nursery offers care three to five days a week, with an optional afternoon programme. There is also a branch in Al Bateen.
Bright Beginnings Nursery
Gender: Co-educational
Teaching Language: English
Bright Beginnings has two branches, one in the Al Mehairba area and the other on Airport Road in the Al Mushrif area. The school's extensive play areas include a water play area, a road with mini cars and houses, swings, a sandpit, climbing frames, a library, a pretend area, a computer pod and a music area.

Busy Bees Nursery
Gender: Co-educational
Teaching Language: English
Busy Bees Nursery’s mission is to “provide a safe, nurturing and stimulating educational environment that will enable each child to explore, investigate, experiment, communicate and question.” Activities are aimed at providing a holistic education that fosters creative, physical and intellectual well-being.

First Steps Nursery and Pre-School
Gender: Co-educational
Teaching Language: English
First Steps Nursery has provided excellent nursery school care since 1997. The nursery school caters for children from 2 to 4 years old, and offers care three to five days a week, at flexible times to suit parents. Pre-school classes are also available for students not quite ready for Kindergarten 1.

Humpty Dumpty Nursery Abu Dhabi
Gender: Co-educational
Teaching Language: English
Humpty Dumpty Nursery was established in 1991. With branches in Al Bateen and Khalifa City A, the nursery provides full- and part-time care for children between the ages of one and four years in small, well-supervised and age-appropriate groups. The schools aim to provide a secure and caring environment designed to nurture a child’s social development while learning through play, social interaction, self-discovery and self-expression. The curriculum is a British-based Early Years Foundation Stage curriculum which is both formulative and progressive, and supports children in reaching developmental milestones and age-appropriate learning objectives.

Jigsaw Nursery
Gender: Co-educational
Teaching Language: English
Jigsaw Nursery has a separate outdoor play space for the youngest class and a gym for children to participate in team games and develop motor skills, as well as a wide range of age-appropriate toys and resources. The nursery hours are flexible.
“COULD VIRTUAL REALITY BECOME THE FUTURE OF ART?”

HARRY
STUDENT AT ALDAR ACADEMIES

Some students are waiting for the future to happen. Others are already beginning to think how they can shape it. At Aldar Academies, we help our students to understand that the future is theirs. Theirs to define. Theirs to improve. And ultimately, theirs to shape.

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A FUTURE SHAPED BY OUR CHILDREN
INTERNATIONAL SCHOOLS

Given that expat children are not allowed to attend public schools in Abu Dhabi, foreign parents will need to enrol their children in a private, international school. It has to be emphasised that seat scarcity is often a serious problem, and finding an open slot can prove challenging. Parents should therefore make an effort to begin the admissions process as early as possible.

Abu Dhabi International School

**Gender:** Co-educational  
**Curriculum:** American, British (Grades 8 to 12)  
International Baccalaureate  
**Address:** P.O. Box 25898, Abu Dhabi, UAE  
**Website:** www.aisuae.com  
**Email:** aism@emirates.net.ae  
**Telephone:** +971 2 443 4433  
**Fax:** +971 2 443 6052  
**Gender:** Co-educational  
**Teaching language:** English  
**School hours:** Kindergarten: 7.15am-1.30pm  
Elementary: 7.20am-2.35pm  
High School: 7.25am-2.45pm

**Background**

Abu Dhabi International School has a great track record among the expat community of Abu Dhabi. The school has a student body of around 3,500 students, including pupils with special needs. The school emphasises an all-round approach to education, as well as on active citizenship and global awareness. Both the American and British school leaving exams are offered at the Abu Dhabi International School. Thus IGCSE, A-Levels, the International Baccalaureate Programme, ACT, AP, TOEFL, SAT and SAT Subject Tests are all available for students. The school is accredited with the Commissions on International and Trans-Regional Accreditation (CITA), the International Baccalaureate Diploma and has preliminary accreditation from the Northwest Association for Accredited Schools (NAAS). The Abu Dhabi International School is also an authorised testing centre for the University of Cambridge, Edexcel, The College Board, and ACT Inc.

Abu Dhabi Grammar School

**Gender:** Co-educational  
**Curriculum:** Canadian  
**Ages:** 3 to 18  
**Address:** P.O. Box 27161, Abu Dhabi, UAE.  
**Website:** www.agsgrmmr.sch.ae  
**Email:** agsadmin@agsgrmmr.sch.ae  
**Telephone:** +971 2 644 4703  
**Fax:** +971 2 645 4703  
**Gender:** Co-educational  
**Teaching language:** English  
**School hours:** 8am-3pm (KG to Grade 2 finishes at 1.30pm)

**Background**
Abu Dhabi Grammar School opened its doors to its first students in 1994. It now has close to 750 students from various nationalities. The school is accredited by the Nova Scotia Department of Education, and teaches the Canadian curriculum from Nova Scotia. Abu Dhabi Grammar School boasts an enriched and integrated programme for students from kindergarten up to Grade 12. The school adheres to the Nova Scotia public school programme, and emphasis is placed on learning being a process of actively constructing knowledge.

**Al Ain English Speaking School**

**Gender:** Co-educational  
**Curriculum:** British  
**Ages:** 3 to 18  
**Curriculum:** National Curriculum of England  
**Address:** Zone Area: Muwaiji, Plot No. 6,  
Street No. 28 Khalid Bin Sultan Street  
New Manaseer, Al Ain, UAE  
**Website:** [www.aaess.com](http://www.aaess.com)  
**Email:** school@aaess.sch.ae  
**Telephone:** +971 3 76786367/1  
**Gender:** Co-educational  
**Teaching language:** English

**Background**

Al Ain English Speaking School (AAESS) is a co-educational independent school that features Nursery, Primary, Secondary and Sixth Form education, catering for students aged from three to 18. The school was founded in 1978, and has been expanded and enhanced considerably since then due to its popularity.

It features a state-of-the-art sports hall and indoor swimming pool as well as canteen and restaurant facilities. Its curriculum, teaching, learning and qualifications are based upon the English educational model, in addition to offering Arabic Language, Arabic Social Studies and Islamic Studies (for Muslim Children) as subjects.

The school's quality of teaching and learning is highly regarded, and its student body is represented by nationalities from around the world. According to the school, visiting it in person is the best way to experience its vibrant community.

**What the school says**

The pupils and teachers are the real asset of Al Ain English Speaking School and you will find the school to be a very welcoming and friendly place. Our ethos promotes growth, mutual respect and self-discipline, cooperation and independence and importantly, a joy for learning.

AAESS aims to provide an all-through, ages three to 18 schooling of the best possible quality based upon traditions of the British educational system set within the unique context of Al Ain.

Inspiration, aspiration and encouragement underpin our child-centred approach to teaching and learning. Our friendly, stimulating and supportive school ethos helps to support high standards of behaviour and academic achievement.

We share, celebrate and learn from the world cultures that make up the international community of our school. This results in students who are confident and reflective learners with adaptable skills, who should go on to work successfully, whether independently or collaboratively in a global context.
**Curriculum**

AAESS follows the National Curriculum of England. Pupils take SATS style tests at the end of Key Stage One (Year 2), and Key Stage Two (Year 6). External GCSE and IGCSE exams are taken in Years 10 and 11, and AS/A2-Levels in Year 12 and 13. Children may also be prepared for Common Entrance Exams, which are the normal means of entry into independent Secondary Schools in UK and elsewhere.

The core (compulsory) subjects of the National Curriculum are English, Mathematics, Science, Information and Communication Technology (ICT) and Physical Education. Achievement is measured at the end of Year 11 by public GCSE exams. Children can be admitted in the Nursery class, when they have achieved the age of three years by 30 August, and continue to take A-Level examinations at age 18.

**Fees**

Fees range from 20,000 AED for nursery students to 40,000 AED for a Year 13 student. Upper primary (Year 6) is approximately 30,000 AED, while upper secondary (Year 11) is 36,000 AED. Fees can be paid over the three academic terms. There is also a registration fee of 1,000 AED.

**From the head teacher**

“I continue to be amazed at the rich variety of talented students in the school who excel in sport, music, drama and oratory as well as in their academic studies and personal development. As a top International Community School we are very conscious of the need to recognise and respect our surroundings and the culture of our hosts in the UAE, while at the same time remaining true to our remit of high excellence through the medium of the British National Curriculum and the demands of over 67 nationalities in the school.

Current and past staff must be praised for their contributions in ensuring that AAESS has maintained its position as a leading International school. Students achieve the highest academic results compared with like schools in the UK and abroad and many move on to the very best universities across the world. The youngest students in the school get the best possible introduction to the world of learning and the eldest students emerge from AAESS as positive and articulate international ambassadors for their generation. As independent thinkers skilled in all modern technology, students are thoroughly prepared to thrive and lead in a competitive world.

Senior managers take the role of leading and managing the school very seriously and are very aware of the need to invest in all areas of the school to ensure it is still providing all that is needed to be at the leading edge of education and learning. Our vision is not only to maintain our position as a prominent international school in the UAE but to be favourably compared worldwide and to lead on education innovation.”

Clare Woodward, Principal of AAESS

**From the Parents Association**

“Friends of Al Ain English Speaking School aim to work alongside the Al Ain English Speaking School staff to complement and enrich students’ experience. We intend to do this by organising and supporting social, community, and fund-raising events (for the school as well as for charity) both within the school and the larger community, as well as providing opportunities for parents to participate in and contribute to school life.”

Friends of AAESS
Aldar Academies, Al Ain Academy

Gender: Co-educational
Curriculum: English National Curriculum
Ages: 3 to 18
Address: Al Salam Street, Sarooj, Al Ain, Abu Dhabi, UAE
Website: www.aldaracademies.com
Email: admissions@alainacademy.sch.ae
Telephone: (+971) 03 7151000
Gender: Co-educational
Teaching language: English

Background
Rated ‘Very Good’ by Abu Dhabi Education Council (ADEC) in Oct/Nov 2015

Al Ain Academy opened in September 2011 providing high-quality education to the region. The children are taught the English National Curriculum – tailored to be meaningful to children living in Al Ain, alongside the local curriculum of Arabic, Islamic Studies and Social Studies. Facilities at the school are excellent and include a large astroturf field, two swimming pools, well-stocked library, a large multi-purpose sports hall, science and technology labs, an auditorium and outdoor play areas.

We provide a warm, friendly and supportive environment where pupils enjoy learning and achieving in an atmosphere of mutual respect and trust.

In a short period of time the school has achieved outstanding levels of progress and attainment, supported by rigorous tracking of assessment data. We have highly dedicated and talented staff, mainly from the UK, who work in partnership with parents to ensure success for all. Al Ain Academy currently accepts pupils from the Foundation Stage (kindergarten) up to Year 12.

Curriculum
The curriculum broadly follows the English National Curriculum from the Early Years Foundation Stage (kindergarten), through to Year 12, modified to reflect the UAE’s rich culture. Each class has a teacher and a classroom assistant as well as support from specialist teachers for physical education, swimming, music and Arabic and Islamic Studies where appropriate. French is introduced at Year 3. The school provides a broad, balanced, creative and relevant curriculum, allowing all pupils to develop at their appropriate level, and endeavours to provide a stimulating and interesting environment in order to develop a love of learning.

Facilities
Facilities at the school are state-of-the-art and the school has been designed to meet the needs of 21st-century learners. These facilities include two swimming pools, art room, music room, auditorium, library, P.E. hall, playing field, large shaded courtyard, mosque, and multimedia suites.

Extra-curricular activities
The school offers a wide selection of over 40 after-school activities such as animal stories in Quran, Arabic calligraphy, art and craft, athletics, ball games, basketball camp, book club, Chinese for beginners, construction club, cookery, craftwork through sewing, dodgeball, drama, football, French, guitar club, hockey, jewellery making and crafts, iPad club, Playdough Fantastico, showcase dance performance class, science club, Spanish for beginners, and swimming for beginners.
Fees

Aldar Academies maintains a competitive fee structure across our schools, whilst providing cutting edge science and technology classrooms, world-class extra-curricular and sports programmes, facilities and the very best teaching staff. Al Ain Academy’s yearly fees range from 39,600 AED at FS1 to 57,330 AED for secondary years, and are payable by term.

From the head teacher

“Al Ain Academy is a happy, inspiring and safe place for all our pupils. To ensure full effectiveness is achieved we strive for a meaningful and beneficial home school partnership. At Al Ain Academy we encourage and nurture the ‘whole child’ so music, art, drama, P.E. and swimming and outdoor activities will feature fully in your child’s education.”

Mr Chris Nourse, Principal

What the parents say

"I love the way you are continually responsive to emerging needs and that you take the children's views and desires into consideration. We find it an incredibly respectful school – to children and parents. Keep up the great work! Love the trumpet playing at assembly, too!"

Year 4 parent

"I am writing to say thank you for the fantastic International picnic and what a wonderful job you all did. There was a great atmosphere and lots of really creative things going on, great food, the kids were clearly really enjoying themselves...I could go on. Anyway, these things do not happen by themselves, I know that a lot of thought and hard work goes into them so a big thank you to all those involved."

Year 5 parent

Aldar Academies, Al Bateen Academy

Gender: Co-educational
Curriculum: English National Curriculum and International Baccalaureate
Ages: 11 to 18
Address: Al Manaseer Area, Abu Dhabi
Website: www.aldaracademies.com
Email: admissions@albateenacademy.sch.ae
Telephone: +971 2 813 2000
Teaching language: English

Background

Rated ‘Outstanding’ by Abu Dhabi Education Council (ADEC) in Oct/Nov 2015

Al Bateen Academy provides high quality education for students from the ages of 11 to 18. We offer the English National Curriculum with an international dimension and one that is suitably adapted to meet the needs of students living and studying in Abu Dhabi. In addition, the school offers a wide range of extra-curricular activities as part of the CAS Programme. Facilities at the school are excellent, and include a large astroturf field, swimming pool, well stocked library, a large multi-purpose sports hall, science and technology labs, an auditorium and outdoor play areas.

The school offers the prestigious International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma Programme to students aged 16 to 18 – the perfect programme for those seeking a broad, challenging education with a global view.
The IB Diploma Programme is an academically challenging and balanced programme of education with final examinations that prepares students for success at university and life beyond.

**Curriculum**

Al Bateen Academy offers a broad and balanced curriculum to prepare students for a multicultural and increasingly globalised world. The school follows the English National Curriculum in Year 7 to 9, while in Year 10 to 11 students follow IGCSE (International General Certificate of Secondary Education) qualifications, accredited by the Edexcel International Examinations Board. The school has successfully become an IB World School and has offered the International Baccalaureate IB Diploma Programme (IBDP) since September 2014. The IBDP will be offered to students in Years 12 and 13. This is a highly prestigious, pre-university programme accepted at universities across the world. Arabic, Islamic and Social Studies are offered in line with the Ministry of Education guidelines.

**Facilities**

Facilities at the school are state-of-the-art, as it has been designed to meet the needs of 21st-century learners. The facilities include a football field, 25-metre swimming pool, outdoor and indoor basketball courts, outdoor and indoor netball courts, outdoor shaded play area, sports hall, dance studio, canteen, library, art and DT classrooms, 10 science labs, two science preparation rooms, drama performance hall (with 850 seats), drama studio, music recital rooms, food technology classrooms, two prayer rooms, and an atrium.

**Extra-curricular activities**

The school offers a wide selection of over 40 after-school activities such as photography, jewellery design, language, calligraphy, book clubs, Quran club, choir, drama and dance. Sports include football, cricket, baseball, basketball, swimming, rugby and badminton.

**Fees**

Aldar Academies maintains a competitive fee structure across our schools, whilst providing cutting edge science and technology classrooms, world-class extra-curricular and sports programmes, facilities and the very best teaching staff. Al Bateen Academy’s yearly fees range from 56,100 AED in Year 7 to 65,900 AED in Year 13, and are payable per term.

**From the principal**

“Welcome to Al Bateen Academy. The school opened in September 2011 to provide high quality education for students from the ages of 11 to 18. The school offers a British-style curriculum with an international dimension, adapted to meet the needs of students living and studying in Abu Dhabi. Facilities in the school are world-class and reflect the needs of 21st-century students. We aim to develop students academically but, also, to be confident, independent, caring, open minded and tolerant leaders of the future. It is a privilege to be the Principal and I am very proud of the school, staff and students. In our most recent ADEC inspection we were again judged to be a ‘Band A Outstanding’.”

*David Hutson, Principal*

**What the parents say**

“We are extremely happy our daughter is studying at Al Bateen Academy. The facilities and teachers are excellent. Our daughter enjoys going to the school and we are pleased with her consistent progress.”

*Parent with a daughter in Year 7*
Aldar Academies, Al Muna Academy

**Gender:** Co-educational  
**Curriculum:** English National Curriculum  
**Ages:** 3 to 11  
**Address:** Hamdan, Abu Dhabi  
**Website:** [www.aldaracademies.com](http://www.aldaracademies.com)  
**Email:** admissions@almunaacademy.sch.ae  
**Telephone:** +971 2 501 4777  
**Teaching language:** English

**Background**

Rated ‘Outstanding’ by Abu Dhabi Education Council (ADEC) in Oct/Nov 2015

Al Muna Academy opened in September 2009 and is located in the heart of the city. The primary school is popular with English-speaking expats and hosts an international community with families from more than 50 countries. Al Muna Academy offers the English National Curriculum, tailored to meet the needs of an international community. The school is a very happy, purposeful place for children to learn. Children love coming to our school. We pride ourselves on the progress children make, the quality of relationships in the school and the ways we ensure children are safe and well cared for. Although we have almost 100 staff and over 600 pupils, visitors regularly comment on our family atmosphere and happy community feel.

**Curriculum**

The school follows the English National Curriculum, with additional lessons in Arabic, Islamic Studies and Social Studies to meet the requirements of the UAE Ministry of Education. Core subjects include maths, English and science, while foundational subjects include design and technology, information and communication technology, history, geography, modern foreign languages (Year 3 upwards), music, art and design, physical education and PSHCE. Al Muna Academy also offers three foundation classes for pupils aged three to five.

**School facilities**

The school has been designed to meet the needs of 21st-century learners, and features state-of-the-art facilities throughout. The facilities include a football field, 25m swimming pool, outdoor and indoor basketball and netball courts, sports hall, well-equipped library, drama performance hall, multimedia suite, two prayer rooms and two shaded outdoor play areas.

**Extra-curricular activities**

The school offers a wide selection of over 40 after-school activities such as touch rugby, computer animation, swim squad, homework club, cricket, cursive writing, audiobook recording, observational, drawing, conversation club, Arabic fonts, drawing cartoon characters, Quran club, art club, puppet club, drumming, badminton, desert school club, netball and ballet.

**Fees**

Aldar Academies maintains a competitive fee structure across our schools, whilst providing cutting edge science and technology classrooms, world-class extra-curricular and sports programmes, facilities and the very best teaching staff. Al Muna Academy’s yearly fees are 41,580 AED from FS1 to Year 6 and are payable per term.
From the head teacher

“Al Muna Academy is a flourishing international primary school in the heart of Abu Dhabi, with approximately 600 pupils on role. Al Muna Academy is a happy, inspiring and safe place for all our pupils. You will find our staff approachable and ready to listen to any issue surrounding your child’s progress. At Al Muna Academy we encourage and nurture the ‘whole child’ so music, art, drama, sports and outdoor activities will feature fully in your child’s education.”

Mr Wayne Howsen, Principal

Quotes from the parents

“I have only positive things to say about Al Muna Academy. The teaching and quality of the facilities are excellent and most importantly our daughter is very happy there.”

Parent, Year 2, Expat Arrivals forum

Aldar Academies, Al Mamoura Academy

Gender: Mixed primary and girls-only secondary school
Curriculum: English National Curriculum
Ages: 3 to 16
Address: East Ring Road, Abu Dhabi, UAE
Website: www.aldaracademies.com
Email: admissions@almamouraacademy.sch.ae
Telephone: +97102 885 7111
Teaching language: English

Background

Rated ‘Good’ by Abu Dhabi Education Council (ADEC)

Al Mamoura Academy is a mixed primary and girls-only secondary school located near the Sea Palace off the East Ring Road, Abu Dhabi. The academy welcomed its first cohort of students in August 2016. Upon opening, Al Mamoura Academy’s mixed primary school incorporated students that previously attended Al Mushrif School, which was rated “Outstanding” by Abu Dhabi Education Council (ADEC). The primary school endeavours to enable pupils to reach their full potential and develop them into motivated, ambitious and confident lifelong learners. Male students attending Al Mamoura’s primary school will receive automatic placement to Al Bateen Academy when they progress to secondary school.

Al Mamoura’s girls-only secondary school is an exciting first for Aldar Academies. In recent years, studies have highlighted the benefits of all-girls education that has resonated with educators from all backgrounds. Our aim is to provide girls with an education based on best-in-class teaching methods, a range of extra-curricular activities and the promotion of leadership skills, in order to prepare them to be effective contributors and confident leaders of the future.

Curriculum

Al Mamoura Academy exclusively follows the English National Curriculum during the primary years, and offers one of two study options in secondary school. Al Mamoura Academy employs the English National Curriculum tailored for international students. Where appropriate, students can take our enhanced Arabic and Islamic Studies syllabi, preparing them for the unified Ministry of Education examinations.
In years 12 and 13, the school offers two learning pathways: British A-Levels and the International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma Programme. Students who remain on the English Curriculum pathway end their secondary school with British A-Levels, the celebrated school-leaving qualification. Students who chose the IB will complete their studies with the prestigious IB Diploma, which is accepted by leading universities in Britain and across the globe.

**School facilities**
The school has been designed to meet the needs of 21st-century learners, and features state-of-the-art facilities throughout. The facilities include a 1000-seat auditorium, extensive music, drama and art facilities, research laboratory, graphic design area, music recording studio and recital hall. Sports facilities include a multi-purpose sports hall, dance studio, 25m swimming pool, basketball and netball courts, two astroturf playing fields and soft playing areas. There are also separate and secure covered play areas for each of the different school stages and a senior school centre.

For students, support for learning comes from a well-equipped library, seminar rooms for small group teaching and video conference suites to facilitate links with other schools and education institutions across the world.

**Extra-curricular activities**
The school offers over 40 after-school activities such as graphic design, photography, jewellery design, languages, calligraphy, book clubs, Quran club, music, choir, drama, and dance. Al Mamoura Academy’s after-school sporting and action activities include football, cricket, baseball, basketball, netball, swimming, rugby, badminton, sailing and water sports as well as expeditions and international award schemes.

**Fees**
Aldar Academies maintains a competitive fee structure across our schools, whilst providing cutting edge science and technology classrooms, world-class extra-curricular and sports programmes, facilities and the very best teaching staff. Al Mamoura Academy’s yearly fees range from AED 48,800 in FS to AED 70,400 in the secondary years, and are payable per term.

**Aldar Academies, Al Yasmina Academy**
*Gender:* Co-educational  
*Curriculum:* English National Curriculum  
*Ages:* 3 to 18  
*Address:* Al Raha Gardens, Abu Dhabi  
*Website:* www.aldaracademies.com  
*Email:* admissions@alyasminaacademy.sch.ae  
*Telephone:* +971 2 5014888  
*Teaching language:* English

**Background**
Rated ‘Very Good’ by Abu Dhabi Education Council (ADEC) in Oct/Nov 2015

Al Yasmina Academy, part of the Aldar Academies community, is one of the organisation’s longest established schools, having opened in September 2008. The school’ capacity is approximately 1,600 students from the Foundation Stage through to Year 13, and all teaching staff are qualified and experienced in the British education system.
We are very proud of our school. We strongly believe that our students deserve the very best. We have highly dedicated and talented staff who work tirelessly to support the progress and development of every student in the school. We place great importance on collaboration between students, staff and parents as we work together to maximise the potential of all.

We value the true sense of belonging we’ve created, and our students are actively encouraged to participate in a vast range of experiences that build on current talents whilst nurturing new interests and intellectual pursuits. We set high standards in our work, conduct, and appearance by fostering a sense of pride in our students by instilling aspiration in their learning and themselves. We provide a warm friendly and supportive environment where students enjoy learning and achieving in an atmosphere of mutual respect and trust. Every student is encouraged to be a part of the community.

Students remain at the heart of all our decisions; we subscribe to the ‘every child matters’ philosophy and this is reflected not only in the life of the school but in the curriculum, its makeup and provision.

At Al Yasmina Academy we place an emphasis on developing skills and values that will enable our students to be confident, responsible and well informed people capable of meeting the challenges of the 21st Century. Since 2008, the school has established itself as a thriving community where students feel safe, valued and happy. Al Yasmina Academy strives to be an outstanding international community school, maximising the learning potential of all.

**Curriculum**

Al Yasmina Academy follows the English National Curriculum for children from three to 18 years, with additional lessons in Arabic, Islamic and UAE Social Studies to meet the requirements of the UAE ministry of education. Senior students follow IGCSE and A-Level programmes.

**Facilities**

Facilities at the school are state-of-the-art as the school has been designed to meet the needs of 21st century learners. These facilities include two football fields, two swimming pools and a beginners’ pool, outdoor and indoor basketball and netball courts, 300m and 100m running tracks, well – equipped library, two shaded outdoor play areas, three indoor sports halls, cricket field, dance studio, canteen with full kitchen and two libraries.

**Extra-curricular activities**

The school offers a wide selection of over 40 after-school activities such as Arabic speaking for non-natives, art club, badminton, basketball, board games, chess, coding club, comedy-sketch club, construction club, conversation skills for language, cookery, sailing, dance show, debating.

**Fees**

Aldar Academies maintains a competitive fee structure across our schools, whilst providing cutting edge science and technology classrooms, world-class extra-curricular and sports programmes, facilities and the very best teaching staff. Al Yasmina Academy’s yearly fees range from AED 41,580 in FS to AED 57,330 in the secondary years, and are payable per term.
From the head teacher

“Al Yasmina Academy is an inspirational community with our values of ‘pride’, ‘aspiration’, ‘respect’ and ‘trust’ at its heart. All children can expect to enjoy the challenge of academic rigour and to focus on acquiring excellent literacy, numeracy and handwriting skills, but we also understand just how important it is for all our children to develop tolerance, resilience, confidence and humility. It is about being part of our community and we place equal emphasis on this aspect of learning. Since 2008 Al Yasmina Academy has taken its place as part of all of our families and this is a tradition I am very proud to continue as Principal.”

Dr Tim Hughes, Principal

Quotes from the parents

"I always knew that there was a lot going on in the school, but I had no idea of the breadth of activities until I read this newsletter. The school should be proud of its pupils and the range of opportunities it makes available to them. Well done."

Year 8 parent

Aldar Academies, The Pearl Academy

Gender: Co-educational
Curriculum: English National Curriculum
Ages: 3 to 11
Address: Al Dhafrah, Abu Dhabi
Website: www.aldaracademies.com
Email: admissions@thepearlacademy.sch.ae
Telephone: +971 2 641 8887
Teaching language: English

Background

Rated ‘Very Good’ by Abu Dhabi Education Council (ADEC) in Oct/Nov 2015

The Pearl Academy was founded by Aldar Academies in 2007, and has grown rapidly since. Although we are a relatively large school, we have retained the small school ethos of friendliness, protection, care and nurturing for all children. The school follows the English National Curriculum together with its assessments, and caters for children between the ages of 3 and 11. In a short period, we have achieved outstanding levels of progress and attainment, supported by rigorous tracking of data and assessment in all areas of the curriculum.

We follow SEAL as part of our PSHE and promote the safety, health and well-being of every child. Our curriculum offers excellence and enjoyment for all, and we ensure children are offered challenging activities in all areas of school life to enable them to reach their potential.

The school has invested in the latest technology to enhance the outstanding quality of education. Classroom and specialist teachers are recruited from the United Kingdom and are extremely well qualified and experienced, offering the best in education to our children. There are excellent teachers for Arabic, Islamic Studies and Social Studies who offer high quality teaching to native and non-native speakers.

Continuous Professional Development forms an integral part of on-going development for all teachers within Aldar Academies.
Curriculum

The Pearl Academy follows the English National Curriculum, with additional lessons in Arabic language, Islamic Studies and Social Studies to meet the requirements of the UAE Ministry of Education and Abu Dhabi Education Council. Core subjects include mathematics, English, science and ICT and foundation subjects include design and technology, history, geography, modern foreign languages (year 3 upwards), music, art and design, physical education and PSHCE. The school also offers four foundation classes for pupils aged three to five. A Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE) programme runs throughout the school. From Year 5, it also includes citizenship. A rich programme of extra-curricular activities is offered after the end of the school day to children in Years 2 to 6.

Facilities

Facilities at the school are state-of-the-art as the school has been designed to meet the needs of 21st century learners. These facilities include one football field, a 25-metre swimming pool, basketball court, outdoor and indoor netball courts, indoor sports hall, well-equipped library, drama performance hall, two prayer rooms, and two shaded outdoor play areas.

Extra-curricular activities

The school offers over 40 after-school activities such as boys’ football, girls’ football, swim squad, swim fitness, athletics, dance, netball, badminton, hockey, active storytelling, art masterclass, arts and crafts, chess club, cross-stitch, nature/gardening club, philosophy for children, creative Arabic, recorder, animation, board games, choir, drama, photography, and the young scientist club.

Fees

Aldar Academies maintains a competitive fee structure across our schools, whilst providing cutting edge science and technology classrooms, world-class extra-curricular and sports programmes, facilities and the very best teaching staff. The Pearl Academy’s yearly fees are AED 40,400 in FS to Year 6 per year, and are payable per term.

From the head teacher

“I am extremely proud of this amazing school. Since our most recent inspection, together with the team, we strive to take all areas ‘beyond outstanding’ through a highly enjoyable, enriched and stimulating approach to learning. Partnerships with parents are of the utmost importance at The Pearl and we hope you will feel welcome and involved in your child’s education from the outset. We provide a balanced and enriched curriculum designed to ensure we have the highest quality of teaching and learning. We pride ourselves on our warm and welcoming environment that ensures all of our children make the very best progress.”

Mrs Abigail Fishbourne, Principal

Quotes from the parents

“The Pearl is undoubtedly the most amazing school in Abu Dhabi. It is like a family because the children are so well cared for. My son has made excellent progress and is really happy to go to school every day.”
A Pearl parent (taken from a parent survey)

“I have three children at The Pearl. My eldest is now in Year 6 and the problem is that she does not want to leave! The organisation is always great at the school and over the past two years communication is even better with lots of texting whenever the children go on residential trips.”
Aldar Academies, West Yas Academy

Gender: Co-educational
Curriculum: American Massachusetts State Curriculum
Ages: 3 to 14
Address: Yas Island, Abu Dhabi
Website: www.aldaracademies.com
Email: admissions@westyasacademy.sch.ae
Telephone: +971 2 885 7000
Teaching language: English

Background

Rated ‘Good’ by Abu Dhabi Education Council (ADEC) in Oct/Nov 2015

West Yas Academy is an American Curriculum school located on Yas Island, and first opened its doors to students in August 2016. The school is a part of Aldar Academies, one of the UAE’s largest providers of leading private education with seven schools across Abu Dhabi and Al Ain. West Yas Academy is the first in our community to teach the American Massachusetts State Curriculum – the most highly regarded and successful public school curriculum in the United States. Our teaching staff are internationally qualified, globally aware and benefit from a Continuous Professional Development programme to enhance their knowledge and further develop their teaching skills whilst using the latest pedagogy techniques. At the same time, teachers strive to impart recognition amongst students of the importance of the UAE’s National Identity, local values, heritage, and culture.

Curriculum

The American Massachusetts State Curriculum draws on a rich history of academic excellence and rigor, and has historically benefited from proximity to and interaction with higher education institutions such as Harvard University and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

The US approach combines student-centred planning with interactive teaching methods to produce a broad and balanced education. The curriculum is supported by a robust emphasis on co-curricular and extra-curricular pursuits which helps foster well-rounded students. West Yas Academy offers AP (advanced placement) classes during the high school years, which are courses taught using university-level syllabi that can later be accredited to a degree programme in US and Canadian universities (as per the liberal arts tradition). The curriculum will provide students with guidance and preparation for taking the SAT (the standardised examination required by US university admissions).

Where appropriate, students can take our enhanced Arabic and Islamic Studies syllabi, preparing them for the unified Ministry of Education examinations.

Graduates of West Yas Academy will receive the American High School Diploma, which is the standard qualification for entry into US universities and colleges. This qualification is recognised by leading institutions across the world.

Extra-curricular activities

The school offers over 40 after-school activities such as graphic design, photography, jewellery design, languages, calligraphy, book clubs, Quran club, music, choir, drama, and dance. The after-school sporting and action activities include football, cricket, baseball, basketball, netball, swimming, rugby, badminton, sailing and water sports, as well as expeditions and international award schemes.
Fees
Aldar Academies maintains a competitive fee structure across our schools, whilst providing cutting edge science and technology classrooms, world-class extra-curricular and sports programmes, facilities and the very best teaching staff. West Yas Academy yearly fees range from AED 51,000 in KG to AED 61,500 in Grade 12.

GEMS American Academy Abu Dhabi
Gender: Co-educational
Curriculum: American
Ages: 3 to 18
Address: P.O. Box 8607, Abu Dhabi, UAE
Website: www.gemssa-abudhabi.com
Email: General: info_gaa@gemselu.com
Admissions: registrar_gaa@gemselu.com
Telephone: +971 2 557 4880
Fax: +971 2 557 4990
Gender: Co-educational
Teaching language: English
School hours: 7.30am-2.45pm, afterschool activities from 3pm-4pm

Background
GEMS American Academy, Abu Dhabi is one of the most prestigious international school in Abu Dhabi. The state-of-the-art campus caters to students from over 40 nationalities, from KG to Grade 12. Its academic program captures the best of both worlds by offering an enriched American curriculum within the International Baccalaureate framework. And its unique facilities include a 3D planetarium, 500 seat auditorium, recording studio, Mac Labs, two swimming pools, a six court sports hall, four tennis courts and a full size soccer/rugby pitch. GEMS American Academy is a part of the GEMS global network of award-winning schools.

American Community School of Abu Dhabi
Gender: Co-educational
Curriculum: American
Ages: 3 to 18
Address: P.O. Box 42114, Abu Dhabi, UAE
Website: http://acs.sch.ae/acsvipers
Email: acs@acs.sch.ae
Telephone: +971 2 681 5115
Fax: +971 2 681 6006
Gender: Co-educational
Teaching language: English
School hours: Sunday-Thursday, 8.10am-3.20pm
Elementary school: 8.10am-12.30pm

Background
Founded in 1972, this not-for-profit institution has a well-deserved reputation as a top-quality school. The American Community School of Abu Dhabi is a co-educational day school governed by an elected board of parents and affiliated with the Office of Overseas Schools, United States Department of State. There are more than 1000 students from around 50 different countries at kindergarten, elementary school, middle school and high school level.

ACS consists of a KG1 to 12 campus equipped with modern facilities that include science labs, a media centre, black box theatre, dance studio, multi-purpose auditorium, cafeteria, art studios and music rooms. Technology
is central to classroom learning at ACS and the school utilises over 600 computers in four main computer labs, two writing labs and 14 mobile labs. The entire campus enjoys high-speed wireless Internet service.

**American International School**
*Gender: Co-educational and Girls only options*  
*Curriculum: American and International Baccalaureate*  
*Ages: 3 to 18*  
*Address: PO Box 5992 Abu Dhabi, UAE*  
*Website: [www.aisa.sch.ae](http://www.aisa.sch.ae)*  
*Email: admissions@aisa.sch.ae*  
*Telephone: +971 2 444 4333*  
*Fax: +971 2 444 4005*  
*Gender: Co-educational in elementary*  
*Gender-segregated in secondary*  
*Teaching language: English*  
*School hours: 7.50am-2.42pm*

**Background**
AIASA was established to provide the local and expatriate residents of Abu Dhabi with a high quality education and an international curriculum based on American standards. The school opened in 1995 with 519 students, and now has 1,200 students from 77 nationalities on the campus. The school’s ethos is to produce reflective, responsible, independent and respectful students, who possess strong global citizenship, integrity and an appreciation for lifelong learning. Through their academic and extracurricular programs they strive to provide an education that gives students the ability to reach their full potential, both academically and personally, and to make a worthwhile contribution to society.

**Brighton College**
*Gender: Co-educational and girls only options*  
*Curriculum: British and International Baccalaureate*  
*Ages: 3 to 18*  
*Address: P.O. Box 129444, Abu Dhabi, UAE*  
*Website: [www.brightoncollegeabudhabi.net](http://www.brightoncollegeabudhabi.net)*  
*Email: General: info@brightoncollege.ae*  
*Admissions: admissions@brightoncollege.ae*  
*Telephone: Admissions: +971 2 815 6507 / 2 815 6506*  
*Reception: +971 2 815 6500*  
*Gender: Co-educational*  
*Teaching language: English; English language support*  
*School hours: Pre-Prep: 7.45am-1.30pm*  
*Year 3-4: 7.45am-2.30pm*  
*Year 5+: 7.45am-2.45pm*

**Background**
Brighton College Abu Dhabi is a joint venture between Brighton College UK and Bloom Properties, and opened its doors at the end of 2011. Brighton College UK has a long and proud history of academic excellence and innovation in education, dating back to the mid-19th century. The school aims to provide a high quality, British-style education which fosters innovative individual thought and ingenuity, and to develop well-rounded, intelligent men and women by encouraging pupils to explore and develop all their talents.
The British School Al Khubairat

**Gender:** Co-educational  
**Curriculum:** British  
**Ages:** 3 to 18  
**Address:** P.O. Box 4001, Abu Dhabi, UAE  
**Website:** [www.britishschool.sch.ae](http://www.britishschool.sch.ae)  
**Email:** principal@britishschool.sch.ae, registrar@britishschool.sch.ae (for admissions)  
**Telephone:** +971 2 446 2280  
**Fax:** +971 2 446 1915  
**Gender:** Co-educational  
**Teaching language:** English  
**School hours:** KS2: 7.45am-2.30pm (Sunday to Wednesday); 7.45am to 1.30pm (Thursdays)  
Foundation Stage and KS1: 8am-2.15pm (Sunday to Wednesday); 8am-1.15pm (Thursdays);  
Secondary School: 7.20am-2.30pm.

**Background**

The British School Al Khubairat was established in 1968. It is a non-profit British-curriculum school for students aged between three and 18 years. Students attending the school enjoy top-of-the-range facilities, and the school has an impeccable reputation among the expat community in Abu Dhabi, and hosts 1,800 students. Both academics and extracurricular activities at the school uphold the highest standards and it is a member of three of the most prestigious education associations in the UK – the Headmaster and Headmistresses’ Conference, the Independent Association of Prep Schools and the Council of British International Schools.

British International School of Abu Dhabi

**Gender:** Co-educational  
**Curriculum:** British  
**Ages:** 3 to 18  
**Mailing address:** P.O. Box 60968, Abu Dhabi, UAE  
**Physical address:** Al Ain Road E22, Abu Dhabi  
**Website:** [www.bisabudhabi.com](http://www.bisabudhabi.com)  
**Email:** admissions@bisad.ae  
**Telephone:** +971 2 510 0101  
**Fax:** +971 2 586 6979  
**Gender:** Co-educational  
**Teaching language:** English  
**School hours:** 7:45am-2.45pm

**Background**

The British International School Abu Dhabi has developed an accomplished reputation since it opened in 2009. The institution is part of the Nord Anglia Education group which has vast experience in delivering excellent education to expat communities around the world. The school upholds the English National Curriculum, offers the International Baccalaureate (IB) and accepts students of all nationalities with open arms. Its well-qualified staff provides an international context to British-style teaching; parents are encouraged to get involved in their student’s school life; and students are encouraged to become confident, open-minded and respectful members of their classroom, and well-rounded contributing members of a global community.
What the school says

The British International School Abu Dhabi is a vibrant, friendly, international learning community offering an outstanding education for students aged 3 to 18 years. Upon enrolment, your family will join Nord Anglia Education’s global campus which offers:

- A friendly community: your whole family will be welcomed into our school’s community that extends far beyond the classroom; where teachers, parents and students take pride in welcoming new families.
- High academic challenge: your child will be excited and inspired by their learning, guided by highly qualified and experienced teachers.
- Amazing opportunities: your child will receive exclusive global experiences through our family of 35 schools worldwide, such as the Global Orchestra in New York or Service expeditions to Tanzania.

Curriculum

The British International School Abu Dhabi offers a curriculum that provides students with an international passport to the best universities in the world, with the English National Curriculum from EYFS to Year 11, and the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme in Years 12 and 13.

Fees

Annual fees cover the cost of tuition, text books and associated materials for the 2014/15 and 2015/16 academic years. They range from 47,900 AED in the Early Years Foundation Stages to 63,200 AED for Years 12 and 13, and can be paid annually or per term. A non-refundable registration fee of 1,500 AED is payable for all new students in the 2015/16 academic year.

From the Principal

“In today’s world, a school needs to offer so much more than classrooms and lessons. A school needs to be the hub of its community and I am extremely proud to say that BIS Abu Dhabi is achieving just that. The strength of the communication between teachers and parents means that students achieve outstanding academic results, plus they excel in learning beyond the classroom and in their personal and social development.

Not only do we want our students to benefit from attending a school such as ours, we want the parents to benefit too. A school succeeds on the strength of the relationships and the sharing of information between school and home. Parents at BIS Abu Dhabi frequently talk about the warmth of the community and also how the teachers are always available and willing to do whatever is required to help each individual child.

The British International School Abu Dhabi is part Nord Anglia Education, a world-renowned organisation specialising in international education. Our students have opportunities to work with others from 35 schools across the world, providing experiences that help them develop as truly international citizens prepared to make a difference to our world as it is today and in the future.”

Patrick Horne, Principal

From the parents

“The British International School Abu Dhabi is a fantastic school, with great teachers who care about the wellbeing of my children. I could not ask any more than that!”

Parent Survey, 2014

“The school is very approachable in terms of staff and teachers. The environment is healthy and encouraging for young minds.”

Parent Survey, 2014
“There is a good vibe when you walk through the gates. You always see children smiling and laughing which means they are happy to be there.”

*Parent Survey, 2014*

**GEMS Cambridge International School**

*Gender:* Co-educational  
*Curriculum:* British  
*Ages:* 3 to 18  
*Address:* P.O. Box 27602, Abu Dhabi, UAE  
*Web site:* [www.gemscis-abudhabi.com](http://www.gemscis-abudhabi.com)  
*Email:* tchsauh@emirates.net.ae  
*Telephone:* + 971 2 552 1621  
*Fax:* + 971 2 552 1622  
*Gender:* Co-educational  
*Teaching language:* English  
*School hours:* 7.30am-2.45pm

**Background**

The Cambridge International School is a part of the GEMS global network of award winning schools. Established in 1988, the school provides high quality education based on the National Curriculum for England to students from Kindergarten to Year 13. Set in a spacious campus, the school is divided into a Junior Section (Kindergarten to Year 6) and Senior School (Year 7 to Year 13). Outstanding teaching, various holistic opportunities and good facilities make the school one of the best in the city. Along with academics, it offers students a wide variety of co-curricular programmes designed to ensure equal opportunities for all to participate. The Cambridge High School, Abu Dhabi has a proven track record for successes, both in academic and extra-curricular activities. With students from more than 45 countries, it has a proudly international character characterised by rich cultural diversity.

**Repton School Abu Dhabi**

*Address:* Repton School Abu Dhabi, Al Reem Island, Abu Dhabi  
*Website:* [www.reptonabudhabi.org](http://www.reptonabudhabi.org)  
*Email:* admissions@reptonabudhabi.org  
*Telephone:* +971 (0)2 507 4888  
*Gender:* Co-educational  
*Teaching language:* English  
*Ages:* 3 to 7 years but will eventually go up to 18 years  
*Curriculum:* British

**Background**

Welcoming families from all nationalities, Repton School Abu Dhabi offers the very best in British education, within the context of an international environment and epitomised by the school’s philosophy of ‘the best for every child’. While excellence is pursued, Repton espouses the notion that every child is important; every child is cherished, nurtured and prized for their individuality.

**What the school says**

We aim to give all our pupils the educational tools to succeed in whatever field they choose to further their path of learning. Through our encouragement of achievement and, equally important, independence of thought as well as action, pupils will develop a sense of personal responsibility and readiness for the demands of a rapidly changing world.
We are proud of both our 21st-century international nature and of the traditions and core values which have been derived from our partnership with Repton in Derbyshire, England. Repton School’s 450 year history has enabled it to develop a mature and effective school; we are fortunate to have been able to draw on the educational knowledge and expertise from our sister school and thus combine the very best of the new with the very best of the British educational system.

**Curriculum**

At Repton Abu Dhabi, we follow a British independent school curriculum, which incorporates elements of the English National Curriculum developed for an independent school in an international environment.

Our curriculum at Repton is carefully designed to develop pupils as independent and lifelong learners as well as encouraging a spirit of intellectual curiosity and the pursuit of knowledge. We develop in our pupils the capacity for independent thought and action, and combine this with rational and responsible decision-making.

**Fees**

Fee costs range from 55,000 AED for Foundation Stage 1 to 67,000 for Year 3 and are payable per term.

**From the head teacher**

“Academically selective and with high aspirations, we are a school that never loses focus of the individual child. Repton is a school where there are many blends: a blend of the pursuit of excellence with a broadening of the mind; a blend in the fulfilment of succeeding as an individual with the pleasure of working as part of a team; and a blend between the investment in self-discovery with an awareness of others. This, as our sister schools refer to, is the ‘wholeness’ that personifies a Repton education.”

Robert Relton, headmaster

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**GEMS World Academy**

**Gender:** Co-educational  
**Curriculum:** American  
**Ages:** 3 to 11  
**Address:** P.O. Box 110273, Abu Dhabi, UAE  
**Website:** [www.gemsworldacademy-abudhabi.com](http://www.gemsworldacademy-abudhabi.com)  
**Email:** info_waa@gemsedu.com  
**Telephone:** +971 2 641 6333  
**Fax:** +971 2 642 8803  
**Gender:** Co-educational  
**Teaching language:** English  
**School hours:** 7.30am-2.45pm, afterschool activities run from 3-4pm.

**Background**

GEMS World Academy, Abu Dhabi, offers children an exclusive Kindergarten and Early Elementary (ECE) programme. It provides the very best of teaching and learning practices for students from KG to Grade 5. The curriculum is based on the ethos and principles of the International Baccalaureate Organization. The school’s facilities cater to younger students and feature two playgrounds, a shaded games field, music room, IT lab, library, art room, gymnasiaum, movement room, climbing wall, health clinic and cafeteria. GEMS World Academy is a part of the GEMS global network of award-winning schools.
FOR MORE INFORMATION

For more information on moving to Abu Dhabi, including accommodation, healthcare and transport in the emirate, have a look at our Expat Guide to Abu Dhabi:

http://www.expatarrivals.com/abu-dhabi/moving-to-abu-dhabi