

Educational opportunities in the Ras Al Khaimah have blossomed since the establishment of the UAE when only a tiny minority of the population had access to formal education. The Government of Ras Al Khaimah has put education and knowledge among its top priorities. This has reflected in the number of educational establishments set up in the emirate in recent years.

IT Skills

There is a strong focus on computer literacy and on English language teaching in higher education to equip young citizens of the UAE with the necessary skills. To this effect, the UAE Ministry of Education released a policy document outlining a strategy for education development in the UAE up to the year 2020 based on several five-year plans. The strategy aims to introduce the latest information technology at all levels including a computer for every 10 students at kindergarten, every five students at primary school, every two students at preparatory school, and a computer for every student at secondary school.

Language Skills

Given the composition of the society and the high percentage of expatriate population in the total population of the UAE, the society of the Emirates is highly multilingual. This is reflected in language skills and the educational system too.

Arabic is the native tongue of the majority of the population and the language of instruction in all government schools. Government schools usually offer foreign language education too, however. This is usually English, although some schools offer other languages, e.g. French or Hindi, too.

English is widely spoken by the younger generation of UAE citizens and most expatriates. It is also the language of instruction in most private schools. French is spoken by expatriates from North Africa and some of the Middle Eastern countries while Spanish is spoken by expatriates from the Philippines. The majority of expatriates come from India and other Asian countries. Hindi, Farsi and other languages are thus spoken by large expatriate groups and are the language of instruction in a number of private schools.

Universities and Colleges in Ras Al Khaimah

Ras Al Khaimah has three universities and one college with two campuses, for boys and for girls. These establishments offer different undergraduate and graduate programs in art, science and technology. The three schools are privately owned but are strongly supported by the RAK government.

Ittihad University

Ittihad University was the first university in Ras Al Khaimah. It was established in 1999.

It has four colleges which offer the following courses/degrees:

- College of Engineering and Computer Science:
Bachelor of Science in Computer Engineering and Bachelor of Science in Computer Science
- College of Management and Information Systems: Bachelor of Business Information Systems
- College of Education: Bachelor of Education in English Language Teaching
- College of Arts: Bachelor of Arts in English Language and Translation

RAK Medical and Health Sciences University

This university was established with the vision to become the leading medical and health sciences university in the UAE. The school offers four Bachelor programmes:

- Medical Science: Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery
- Dental Sciences: Bachelor of Dental Surgery
- Pharmaceutical Sciences: Bachelor of Pharmacy
- Nursing: Bachelor of Science in Nursing

Clinical training and internships are offered in government-owned hospitals in Ras Al Khaimah: Saqr Hospital and Obaidullah Hospital. Admission is open to students of all nationalities.

Schools and Skills in Ras Al Khaimah

George Mason University RAK Campus

The Ras Al Khaimah campus of the US George Mason University was established in 2005. All degrees, courses and faculty members are approved by and are consistent with the standards of George Mason University in Virginia. All letters of admission, transcripts, and diplomas are also issued in the USA. Students enrolled to study in the RAK campus may transfer themselves to the US campus as long as US immigration and visa procedures are completed. The school currently offers the following academic programs:

- Bachelor of Science in Economics
- Bachelor of Science in Biology, with concentration on Biotechnology
- Bachelor of Science in Business Administration, with concentration on International Business, Finance, Marketing, or Management
- Bachelor of Science in Electronics and Communications Engineering, with concentration on Information Technology
- Bachelor of Science in Computer Science
- Bachelor of Science in Health, Fitness and Recreational Resources, with concentration on Tourism and Events Management
- Minor in Geographic Information Systems

The school has an English Language Program designed for students who need additional support to improve their English language skills for success in entrance exams and following academic studies.

Higher Colleges of Technology

This university is fully owned and supported financially by the federal government and has sister schools in other emirates of the UAE. Admission is open only to UAE nationals. The school has two separate campuses – one for girls and boys each. The following diplomas are offered: Bachelor, Diploma, and Higher Diploma. Higher Colleges of Technology offer the following courses in Ras Al Khaimah campuses:

- Information Technology
- Engineering
- Business Administration

Other Smaller University-type Establishments in Ras Al Khaimah Include:

Friedman School of Nutrition Science and Policy RAK Branch

Gerald J. and Dorothy Friedman School of Nutrition Science and Policy is a part of the Tuft University in the USA. The school offers Master's Degree in Nutrition Science and Policy, a one-year academic program consisting of eight courses and a thesis conducted in three 13-week terms, consisting of a 10-14 day intensive residency period in UAE, with the remainder of each course taught using the latest distance learning methods and technologies.

Royal College of Applied Science and Technology

The College is licensed by the Ras Al Khaimah Free Zone with the objective to offer off-campus training programs of various reputed international universities in the branches of medicine, dentistry, nursing, engineering, management, information technology and humanities.

IGNOU, the Indira Gandhi National Open University, one of the largest universities in India, has its international centre at Royal College of Applied Science and Technology.

Royal College of Applied Science and Technology is also the International Centre of Birla Institute of Technology from Ranchi, India. It offers the following courses:

- Electronics and Communication Engineering (4 yrs)
- Electrical and Electronics Engineering (4 yrs)
- Computer Science and Engineering (4 yrs)
- Bachelor of Architecture (5 yrs)
- Integrated Engineering (6 yrs)
- Bachelor of Business Administration (3 yrs)
- Bachelor of Business Management and Accounting (3 yrs)
- Bachelor of Pharmaceutical Sciences (4 yrs)
- Master of Business Administration (2 yrs)
- Executive MBA (2 yrs - classes on Fridays)

Royal College of Applied Science and Technology is also the recognized Off Campus International Centre of the University of Seychelles- American Institute of

Schools and Skills in Ras Al Khaimah

Medicine, which is accredited, recognised and approved by the Charter of the President of the Republic of Seychelles.

University of Bolton, Great Britain

University of Bolton announced in 2008 that it will open a branch campus in Ras Al Khaimah in September 2008 which will offer a broad range of the university's undergraduate and postgraduate programs in Built Environment, Engineering, Business, Computing/Information Technology and Art and Design.

Ras Al Khaimah Centre for Advanced Materials (RAK-CAM)

The centre was established in 2007 to carry out research in cooperation with leading international research bodies on advanced structural materials, ceramics, and composites, polymeric materials, including plastic, inorganic materials; e.g., minerals and novel synthetic inorganics, and so on.

The American University of Ras Al Khaimah

This school was recently approved by Ras Al Khaimah government. Classes should begin in Fall 2009.

Continuing Education

INJAZ training centre at the RAK Free Trade Zone

The centre, opened in 2006 under the name of the Centre for Business Excellence, offers a wide range of courses and other services such as organisation of courses and events, rental of training rooms and training materials. Training courses offered include:

- Business communication
- IT courses
- Project management
- Leadership and teambuilding courses
- Language courses and exam preparations

Primary and Secondary Schools in Ras Al Khaimah

A large number of government-run public schools (primary, elementary and higher secondary) are spread all over Ras Al Khaimah with Arabic as their main medium of instruction. There are also many private schools. Those where Arabic is the main language of instruction include The Egyptian School and Badr Primary School.

Apart from the above schools, there are English-medium ones which offer varied curricula to suit the expatriate community, offering syllabi such as GCSE, IGCSE, A Levels, O Levels, CBSE, Kerala State-Board (Indian Syllabi), Pakistani, Dhaka Board (Bangladeshi Syllabi) etc:

- Ras Al Khaimah English Speaking School
- The International School of Chouifat
- Indian School Ras Al Khaimah
- Bangladesh Islamia School
- The New Indian Higher Secondary School
- Pakistani Higher Secondary School
- Indian Public High School

Kindergartens in Ras Al Khaimah

The Kids Zone in the Ras Al Khaimah Free Trade Zone is an English-language kindergarten for children of parents employed by companies in the Zone and parents of staff members of the Zone.

Schools and Skills in Ras Al Khaimah/UAE

Kindergartens, Elementary and Secondary Schools in Ras Al Khaimah, 2002-2007

Academic year	Government schools						Private schools	
	Kindergartens	Scale 1	Scale 2	Secondary	Multiple stages	Vocational	Kindergartens	Private
2002/3	16	35	9	8	29	2	3	25
2003/4	16	29	13	11	21	2	2	25
2004/5	16	28	13	11	22	2	2	24
2005/6	16	28	13	11	22	1	2	25
2006/7	17	28	14	13	22	1	2	25

Source: Ras Al Khaimah Educational Department

Students of Government Schools in RAK, 2002/3-2006/7

Stage	2007/2006	2006/2005	2005/2004	2004/2003	2003/2002
Kindergartens	3103	2762	2689	3257	3381
Scale 1	10946	11349	11952	12245	12688
Scale 2	10130	10449	10634	10862	11289
Secondary	6938	7224	7606	7475	7291
Vocational	41	101	181	212	199
Total	31117	31784	33062	34051	34848

Source: Ras Al Khaimah Educational Department