

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

Population: 9,2 million

The population is heavily concentrated in the northeast of the Musandam Peninsula; the three largest emirates – Abu Dhabi, Dubai, and Sharjah – are home to nearly 85% of the population.

Life expectancy is 77,5 and the median age is 29,2.

24,5% of the population is under 25 and 1,04% of the population is above 65. There are 1,56 physicians per 1000 habitants.

Climate: The climate is arid. Winters (December to March) are mild and pleasant while summers (June to September) are hot and humid.

Spoken languages and religion: Arabic is the official language and English is widely spoken.

Islam is the official religion in UAE and, as a consequence, 76% of the population is Muslim, 9% is Christian and 15% minorities such as Hindu and Buddhist.

Non-working days and holidays: Friday is the rest day in UAE. Most public holidays are calculated on the Islamic calendar which is subject to changes every year based on the lunar calendar (15 public days on average).

There are 30 days of paid leave a year.

Generally, the maximum working time is 8 hours a day or 48 hours a week all year long, except during the month of Ramadan where days can be reduced to 6 working hours at the employer's discretion.

Traditions: UAE is a federation of monarchies and its capital is Abu Dhabi. As with every country in the region, homosexuality is illegal.

Under UAE Penal Code, unrelated person of the opposite sex cannot live together and extra marital sex is prohibited. Holding hands for married couples is tolerated but kissing and hugging are considered offences against public decency.

Non-Muslim residents can get a liquor license to drink alcohol at home and in licensed venues. These licenses are valid only in the Emirate that issued the license. Residents must also get a permit to be able to drink in licensed venues. Alcoholic drinks are served in licensed hotels and clubs, but it is a punishable offence to drink, or to be under the influence of alcohol, in public.

Health care sector: A new study by research company Mena Research Partners (MRP) has suggested that the UAE's health care sector will grow by 60% in the next 5 years. The market, which is currently valued at Dh64 billion (\$17 billion), will surge to over Dh103 billion (\$28 billion) in 2021, driven by a shift in demand for preventive care, a rise in specialist medical services, more efficiently integrated health care solutions, as well as the high growth potential within specific medical device and pharmaceutical sub-sectors, the report found¹.

Over the coming years, the U.A.E. will need an influx of medical personnel to meet its growing demand for high-quality medical services. The Health Authority - Abu Dhabi (HAAD) projected in a September 2015 report that the Emirate will need 4,800 new doctors and 13,000 new nurses by 2022.

Foreign doctors: They are allowed to work in UAE provided that they have obtained their UAE license. Every physician willing to work in the UAE has to submit an application, either for a locum or a permanent position. Procedures may vary from one state to another and generally the hospital or the clinic is handling the matter.

For general information on the requirements by country please click [here](#).

- For Abu Dhabi (competence from **Health Authority Abu Dhabi - HAAD**):

The HAAD conducts licensing examination for foreign doctors and delivers their license.

Please click [here](#).

- For Dubai (competence from **Dubai Health Authority - DHA**):

The DHA conducts licensing examination for foreign doctors and delivers their license. All healthcare professionals must hold a DHA License to be able to work in the emirate of Dubai.

Please click [here](#).

In any case, some formalities are required to stay in UAE. Firstly, a visa is necessary, however, visa conditions are different from one country to another even if, for US and European nationalities, the residency process is quite straightforward. Moreover to stay in the UAE, every person needs an entry visa which is issued on entry to Dubai and a health card which confirms that he/she does not have infectious diseases. Only after that and if the person has a written employment agreement, he/she will be delivered a labor card which will allow the person to work within the UAE. Finally, a residency visa is also required to be allowed to stay for a period of longer than 30 days.

¹ <https://gulfnnews.com/news/uae/health/uae-health-care-market-to-grow-to-dh103b-by-2021-according-to-new-study-1.2002656>

For the other states, the process of licensing examination and delivering license is conducted by the Ministry of Health.

More information:

- Health Authority Abu Dhabi (HAAD):
 - <https://www.haad.ae/haad/>
 - +971 2 449 3333

- Dubai Health Authority:
 - https://www.dha.gov.ae/Documents/HRD/Healthcare%20professionals/Physicians/Booklet_Professional_Licensing.pdf