

KFUPM Global Exchange Fellowship

Inbound Program Fact Sheet



Program Overview

The **Global Exchange Fellowship (Inbound)** at King Fahd University of Petroleum & Minerals (KFUPM) offers international students the opportunity to spend one academic semester immersed in a highly ranked STEM focused institution in Saudi Arabia. The program supports academic mobility, cultural exchange, and global cooperation by welcoming qualified students from partner universities and top international institutions. Since its introduction, the fellowship has played a central role in KFUPM's internationalization strategy and continues to elevate the global diversity of the campus community.



Facts & Figures

KFUPM is for the trailblazers, the leaders, and the disruptors. We stand as one of the most academically ambitious and forward-facing higher education institutions in the MENA region.

#1 Times Higher Education
Middle East and Africa
University Rankings 2024

#67 QS World University
Rankings 2026

#1 QS Arab Region
Ranking 2024

#25 Times Higher
Education Impact
Ranking 2025

#5 Worldwide Universities
Granted U.S. Utility
Patents



Key Dates

The program operates on a clear, semester-based admissions cycle

Term	Nomination Window (Partners)	Application Open (Non-Partners)	Application Deadline
Fall Semester	March 1 – April 15	March 1	May 1
Spring Semester	June 1 – August 15	June 1	September 1

These timelines ensure sufficient processing time for application review, placement, and visa coordination.



Eligibility Criteria

To participate, students must meet KFUPM's academic and language standards:

- Be enrolled at an approved partner or recognized international university.
- Maintain a **minimum GPA of 3.0 out of 4.0**, or equivalent based on their institution's official grading scale.
- Demonstrate proficiency in English, typically through a **TOEFL iBT score of 70** or an **IELTS score of 6.0**, unless exempt as a native speaker from designated English-speaking countries.
- Receive a formal nomination or permission letter from their home institution prior to the application submission.
- Provide an **official academic transcript** as part of the application documents.

Academics at KFUPM

KFUPM delivers all undergraduate and graduate courses in **English**, ensuring accessibility for international students. For a full list of available courses, visit the [KFUPM Course Bulletin](#).

- Students are expected to enroll in **12 to 19 credits** per semester, depending on academic needs and course availability.
- **Course offering** for the fall semester are published in **March** and **September** for the spring semester, allowing students to plan effectively.
- Exchange students follow the same academic policies as degree seeking students, including attendance requirements and participation expectations.



Grading System

- KFUPM uses a letter-grade system on a 4.00 scale (A+ = 4.00 down to F = 0.00), applied equally to exchange students.
- All completed courses appear on the official KFUPM transcript. Home institutions are responsible for credit and GPA conversion.
- For the full grade scale and additional notations, [visit the Transcript Index file here](#).

Calendar

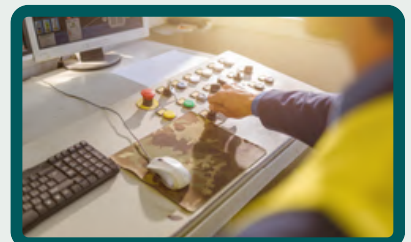
- Fall 2026 courses run 15–16 weeks, with final exams held within 2 weeks of the last session. The semester ends in December.
- Spring 2026 course details will be published in Fall 2026. [View the Academic Calendar 2026–2027 here](#).

Fields of Study

KFUPM offers a wide academic selection across major STEM and business disciplines:

- College of Engineering & Physics
- College of Computing & Mathematics
- College of Petroleum Engineering & Geosciences
- College of Chemicals and Materials
- College of Design and Built Environment
- KFUPM Business School
- College of General Studies

A complete, detailed list of majors and departments is available on the [KFUPM website](#) for students who wish to explore specific academic interests.



Application Process

The application and selection process is structured to be transparent and supportive:

1. Application

For **partner universities**, students are first nominated by their home university's international office during the appropriate application window.

For **non-partner applicants**, students may apply directly through the official KFUPM platform during the open application window.

2. Online Application Submission

Candidates submit their application through the official KFUPM platform, including all required documents:

1. Statement of Purpose
2. Official Transcript
3. Permission Letter
4. Passport Copy
5. A short Video Introduction

3. Initial Review

The Student Mobility Unit reviews applications for completeness, eligibility, and alignment with program objectives.

4. Interview Stage

Shortlisted students are invited for an interview conducted by Global Engagement staff and an academic representative from the student's field of study.

5. Final Selection

Successful applicants receive an official offer outlining fellowship terms, responsibilities, and next steps.



Fellowship Benefits

The Global Exchange Fellowship is designed to offer comprehensive academic and personal support, making KFUPM one of the most generous exchange destinations in the region.

- **Fully covered** tuition fees.
- **Monthly stipend of 990 SAR**, supporting daily expenses throughout the semester.
- **Free on campus accommodation**, providing safe, accessible, and community oriented housing.
- **Airport pickup service**, ensuring a smooth arrival in Saudi Arabia.
- **Discounted** meals on campus.
- **Free access** to primary medical care center on campus.
- **Orientation and onboarding activities**, introducing students to academic expectations, campus life, and available resources.
- **Dedicated academic advising and peer mentoring**, helping students adjust and succeed.
- **Free textbooks**

Student Life & Campus Services

Located in Dhahran, ranked first in [Saudi Arabia's 2025 Quality of Life Index](#), KFUPM is home to a vibrant international community of students from over 60 countries. On campus, students have access to fully furnished [housing](#), discounted dining, a full medical center, 24/7 security, shuttle buses, sports facilities, and more. Beyond the campus gates, cultural landmarks like [Ithra](#), a private beach at Half Moon Bay, and easy access to regional destinations make [life in Saudi Arabia](#) experience well beyond the classroom. For a full overview of campus services, visit the [Campus Life](#) page.



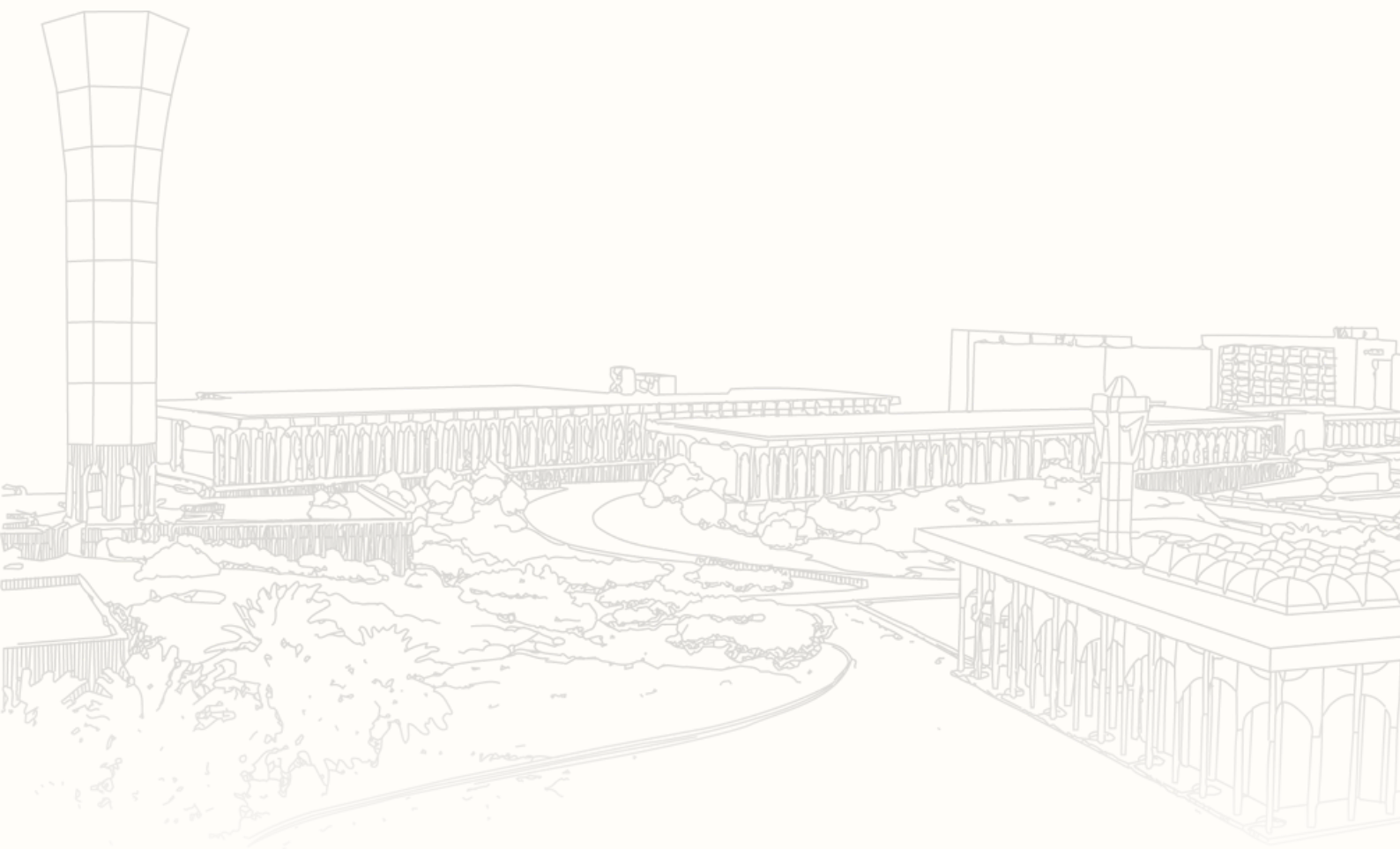
Contacts Information

For all inquiries related to the Global Exchange Fellowship:

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