



جامعة
الدراسات
العلية
GLOBAL STUDIES
UNIVERSITY



THE **AFRICA**
INSTITUTE



At a Glance



About Us

Global Studies University

Global Studies University (GSU) is a specialized postgraduate and research university. The creation of GSU is set to play a vital role in the necessary and timely training of a new generation of critical thinkers in global studies both within the UAE and abroad. Historically, the UAE and the wider Gulf region have acted as a convergence point of peoples and cultures, a pattern that continues today through migrations, labor, pilgrimage, and other modes of exchange and movements of people. The establishment of GSU illustrates the continued recognition of this rich and diverse cultural tapestry and the ambitions and visions of Sharjah and the UAE. GSU, therefore, is envisioned as a network of semi-independent, but related interdisciplinary institutions each concentrating on a different region of the world. This network includes The Africa Institute as well and the soon to be established Asia Institute and Oceania Institute. Similar institutions focusing on other regions of the world, such as the Americas and Europe, are also planned to follow. The aim of these multiple institutions is to focus on teaching, research, and documentation of histories, cultures, and peoples who constitute different regions of the world, with a focus on the Global South.

As such, GSU's postgraduate curriculum, at both the master's and doctoral levels, is designed to advance interdisciplinary methodologies and thought processes by identifying key, intersecting thematic fields and areas of studies. Moreover, with its emphasis on the research and teaching of non-Western languages and translation, to its own students and those of other universities in the country and the world at large, GSU provides its graduates with a vital understanding of local and global contexts, relevance, and deep-rooted connections.



The Africa Institute

Established in 2018, The Africa Institute offers both Master's and PhD programs in the humanities and social sciences. The institute aims to be a model center of excellence that engages with, as well as shapes, new paradigms of thought. As the only institution of its kind located in the Gulf—the historical nexus of global exchanges—The Africa Institute (GSU) is uniquely positioned to expand our understanding of African and African diaspora studies, as a global enterprise. The Africa Institute closely collaborates with its peer interdisciplinary institutions within GSU, as well as local and other premier universities worldwide, with which it has signed collaborative agreements, including University of Sharjah, Rutgers University, Cornell University and Mellon/UNCF. Of particular importance is the close, synergistic relationship with the Sharjah Art Foundation and Sharjah Architecture Triennale, whose diverse and globally impactful programming—most notably, the Sharjah Biennial, and the March Meeting, and the Architecture Triennale—enrich the research, pedagogical, and community outreach missions of the institute and the university.



Vision

Global Studies University (GSU) aims to establish itself as a leading global studies institution recognized worldwide for its excellence in teaching, research, and documentation. Situated in the Gulf region, GSU seeks to transcend traditional area studies and continental thinking frameworks by pioneering critical, interconnected, and interdisciplinary paradigms that redefine global studies.

Mission

GSU's mission is to serve as hub for critical engagement in global studies within the arts, humanities, and social sciences, producing new knowledge and nurturing the next generation of critical thinkers to address global complexities and interconnectedness through knowledge production and postgraduate training. GSU is conceived as a multi-institute entity focusing on Africa, Asia, the Americas, Europe, Oceania, and other key regions of the world.



How to apply?

Admission Requirements

Requirements for Master's Program Applicants

- A bachelor's degree with a minimum Cumulative Grade Point Average (CGPA) of 3.0 out of 4.0, or equivalent
- If the student's bachelor's degree was obtained outside the UAE, applicants must submit an equivalency certificate of their degree from the UAE Ministry of Education's
- Official transcripts and graduation certificates for both bachelor's and master's degrees, duly attested by the UAE Ministry of Education.
- Valid passport copy
- Emirates ID and visa (if applicable)
- One passport-sized photo
- Valid English proficiency score IELTS 6.5 or IBT TOEFL 91
- Recent CV/Resume
- Statement of Interest (1,000-1,500 words)

The Accreditation

Licensure and Accreditation

Global Studies University (GSU), located in the Emirate of Sharjah, is granted approval from the Ministry of Education of the United Arab Emirates, Commission for Academic Accreditation (CAA) to promote its Master of Arts in Global African Studies, subject to accreditation to award degrees and qualifications in higher education graduate programs.

Educational Collaborations

GSU has also formed academic collaborations and partnerships with leading academic and research institutions both locally and internationally. Most notably, GSU has already signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Rutgers University for close academic collaboration to work together on quality assurance of our curriculum and degree programs, as well as strengthening research, teaching, curriculum development, student and staff exchange, and developing dual degrees, among other areas. Additionally, GSU has signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) with Cornell University. This MoA emphasizes a robust collaboration, particularly through curriculum development and exchange programs between both institutions.

GSU has also signed MoU with the University of Sharjah, a leading academic institution in the UAE, to facilitate academic partnership, research collaboration, and student and staff exchanges, with particular emphasis on access to the University of Sharjah's extensive library resources. This partnership enhances GSU's regional engagement and reinforces its commitment to academic excellence. Additionally, GSU has also entered into a Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) with the UNCF/Mellon Foundation, a prominent foundation known for its support of the humanities, arts, and higher education, and historically Black Colleges and Universities known as (HBCU). This agreement highlights GSU's commitment to advancing research and scholarship, particularly in African and African diaspora studies, through funded projects and collaborative initiatives.



Overview of programs

The MA program in Global African Studies engages the most important, pressing questions in the study of Global Africa, across the breadth and depth of the humanities and social sciences. The program is designed to promote interdisciplinarity and interconnectedness, encouraging a deeper, more comprehensive understanding of topics related to Africa and the African diaspora in a global context, with the aim of training a new generation of critical thinkers. It blurs traditional disciplinary boundaries, advancing interdisciplinary methodologies and thought processes by identifying key, intersecting thematic fields and areas. Major cross-cutting thematic fields to be explored include intellectual thought, the Indian Ocean world, Afro-Arab relations, the Muslim world, gender studies and feminist futures, and diaspora. Because the most urgent questions of the moment necessitate trans- or inter-disciplinary collaboration, the institute has assembled a highly qualified faculty that has the requisite agility to work in, between, and across disciplines to run the program.

The MA curriculum is clustered into three specialization tracks, namely

1. Museum and Critical Heritage Studies,
2. Afro-Arab Relations, and
3. Diplomacy and Africa's International Relations

Track 1: Museum and Critical Heritage Studies

Museum and Critical Heritage Studies track offers interdisciplinary study in the contemporary theory and practice of museum and heritage. It offers practical training in a broad range of museum and heritage institutions and organizations situated in the public, private, and nonprofit sectors in Africa, the Arab world, and internationally. Taking advantage of its location in Sharjah, one of the cultural centers of the Gulf and thriving cultural institutions in the UAE, the program area focuses on several areas in the history and theory of museums, in the histories and politics of exhibition practice, in collection, in museum management, and in the critical study of heritage management, conservation, preservation, as well as heritage policy, professional practice, and organizations. The program emphasizes a transdisciplinary curriculum that engages scholars, community leaders, artists, activists, legislators, museums, heritage managers, non-governmental agencies and organizations (UNESCO, World Bank, etc.), and governments.

Track 2: Afro-Arab Relations

The courses in this track offer a critical assessment of the historical socio-cultural relations between Africa and the Arab world. The courses aim to address the diverse historical connections and overlapping histories of solidarity and cooperation such as the common struggles against colonialism and the emancipatory philosophies and movements that Africa and the Arab world shared. Departing from the disciplinary methods of political science that divide African studies, which evolved from the legacies of European colonialism and Middle Eastern studies, which grew out from European Orientalism, the program area explores the entangled association of Africa and the Arab world through the interdisciplinary engagement of diverse courses that cover a wide range of themes such as shared non-state ideologies, the interconnectedness of cultural dynamics, and the international and regional transformations in the twentieth century, among others.

Track 3: Diplomacy and Africa's International Relations

The track is designed to provide in-depth knowledge about Africa's historical significance, its global role, position, and interactions. It places a special

emphasis on Africa's connections with the Middle East and its position within the wider Indian Ocean world. While the program primarily delves into themes like economic structures, political governance, migration history, and the evolution of African diplomatic relations, it underscores the importance of comprehending Africa's engagement in the world. This understanding is vital for an adequate grasp of global politics and the broader complexities that define our world. By examining historical contexts, contemporary challenges, and emerging trends, students will gain a broad understanding of Africa's position in the ever-changing global landscape. One aim of the track is to disassemble narratives on the apparent absence of the African voice in international relations. It therefore provides an excellent opportunity for students wishing to cultivate a critical and nuanced understanding of the ideas, debates and theories that have shaped the study of Africa's international relations. In relation to this, intellectual currents that shaped historic positions on key global matters such as Pan-Africanism and Pan-Arabism will be of interest.

- African Languages and Translation
- Gain a Competitive Edge: Graduate with a New Language and a Global Perspective. The GSU-The Africa Institute is the region's sole university offering African language courses alongside with the master's degree.

All MA students are expected to enrol in three semesters of courses in a chosen African language (Arabic, Amharic, Hausa or Kiswahili) and will receive a certificate upon completion.

In many African studies programs, African languages are offered in extracurricular, supplementary, and mainly skill-based courses. At The Africa Institute (GSU), we believe languages are far more than mere instruments of communication. Languages are archives of social memory, history, culture, and lived experience. The institute not only offers training in language but fully integrates broader visions, perspectives, and conceptualizations of translation into its offerings.

Program Structure

Program Component	Credit Hours
Common Core courses	6
Specialization Core courses	18
Elective courses	6
Language courses	P/F
Internship	P/F
Thesis	6
Total	36

Program study plan

MA in Global African Studies			
Course Code	Course Title	Grade	Credit Hours
Core Courses			12
GAS601	Theory and Method I		3
GAS602	Theory and Method II		3
Specialization Cores			18
SC1	Specialization Core 1		3
SC2	Specialization Core 2		3
SC3	Specialization Core 3		3
SC4	Specialization Core 4		3
SC5	Specialization Core 5		3
SC6	Specialization Core 6		3
Language Course (Arabic, Hausa, Kiswahili and Amharic)			-
AFL100	Elementary Level		-
AFL200	Intermediate Level		-
AFL300	Advance Level		-
Electives Course			6
EC1			3
EC1			3
Thesis & Internship			12
GAS699P	MA Thesis		6
GAS699I	Internship		-
Total Credit Hours			36

Track 1: Museum and Critical Heritage Studies		
Course Code	Course Title	Credit Hours
GAS 611	Who Owns the Past? Politics and Heritage in Africa	3
GAS 612	History and Theory of Museums	3
GAS 613	Decolonizing Heritage	3
GAS 614	Museum Collections Management and the Politics of Exhibitions	3
GAS 615	Ethics, Archaeology and Heritage	3
GAS 616	Museum Management and Heritage as a Career	3

Track 2: Afro-Arab Relations		
Course Code	Course Title	Credit Hours
GAS 621	Introduction to Afro-Arab Relations: From Ancient to Ottoman Era	3
GAS 622	Comparative Slavery: Transatlantic and Indian Ocean Trades	3
GAS 623	Comparative Apartheid/Settler Colonialism: The Case of Palestine and South Africa	3
GAS 624	Casablanca Group and the Monrovia Group: The Formation of the OAU	3
GAS 633	Africa in the World, Past and Present	3
GAS 636	State, International Society and Empire	3

Track 3: Diplomacy and Africa's International Relations		
Course Code	Course Title	Credit Hours
GAS 631	Diplomacy Studies	3
GAS 632	Advanced International Relations Theory	3
GAS 633	Africa in the World, Past and Present	3
GAS 634	The Political Economy of Africa	3
GAS 635	International Finance and Global Economic Governance	3
GAS 636	State, International Society and Empire	3

Electives Courses		
Course Code	Course Title	Credit Hours
GAS 641	Foreign Policy Analysis	3
GAS 642	Social and Political Thought in Africa	3
GAS 643	Government and Politics of Africa	3
GAS 644	The State in Africa: An In-Depth Exploration	3

City of Sharjah

Experience the essence of Sharjah, the third largest emirate in the UAE, where rich heritage meets vibrant modern life. From its dynamic art scene and deep historical roots to its diverse attractions and multicultural community, Sharjah offers a unique blend of experiences for residents and visitors.

Explore local events, cultural landmarks, and enjoy a safe and welcoming environment that reflects the city's dedication to preserving its past while embracing the future. Whether you're discovering artistic treasures, engaging with community initiatives, or navigating the city's attractions, Sharjah offers a diverse and enriching experience for all.



Art & Culture

Sharjah's art, heritage, and cultural scene is quite robust. Offering a diversity of museums, Sharjah is a historic city center being reconstructed and remodeled, and it hosts major cultural events like the Sharjah Biennial, the Sharjah International Book Fair, and the Sharjah Architecture Triennial. Visit the Sharjah Art Foundation for contemporary art, the Museum of Islamic Civilization for Islamic art and history, the Calligraphy Museum to admire Arabic script, and the Archaeology Museum for insights into ancient civilizations. The Sharjah Institute of Theatrical Arts caters to performance enthusiasts, while libraries like the House of Wisdom, Sharjah Public Library, and Al Qasimiya University Library provide rich learning resources. Local exhibitions and events further enhance the city's vibrant art and literary life.

Heritage & History

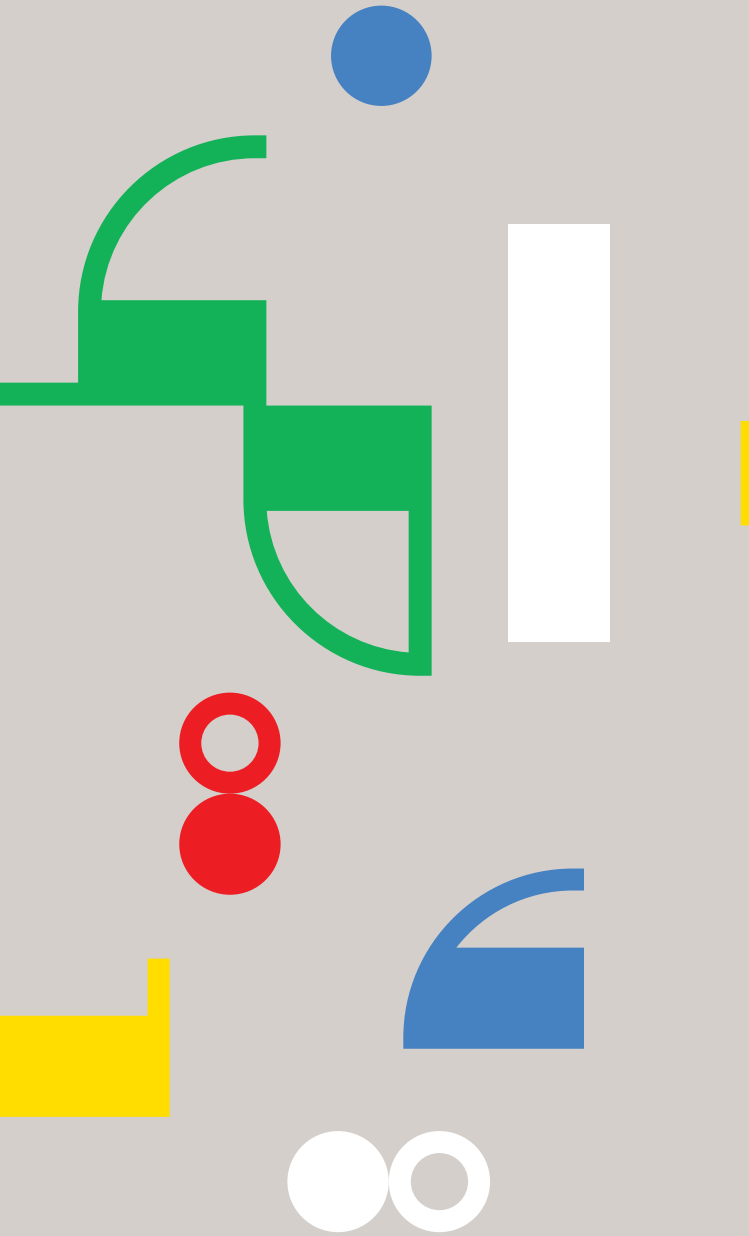
Sharjah is a city with deep historical roots. Explore **Al Hisn Fort** for a glimpse into the past, marvel at the **Al Noor Mosque's** architectural beauty, and wander through **Al Arsah Souq**, one of the city's oldest markets. Discover how Sharjah preserves its heritage through cultural initiatives and festivals that celebrate its rich history and traditional crafts.

Local Attractions

Sharjah offers a diverse range of attractions. Enjoy the scenic **Al Majaz Waterfront** for its views and family-friendly activities, visit **Al Qasba** for dining and entertainment, and explore local markets for unique culinary and retail experiences. Don't miss annual events like the **Sharjah International Book Fair** and **Sharjah Biennial**, which attract global visitors.

Community Life

Engage with Sharjah's multi-cultural community through local events and traditions. With over 100 nationalities residing in Sharjah, explore volunteer opportunities to contribute to local initiatives and enrich your experience by participating in diverse community activities and learning about local customs and practices.



Visit us For information on our upcoming events, updated content and vacancies, visit us at theafricaninstitute.org or call +971 6 511 2445/+971 6 511 2439

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