IACP/UAE Ministry of Interior Police Academy Exchange Program

In partnership with the United Arab Emirates Ministry of Interior (MOI) and the IACP's World Regional Office of the Middle East and North Africa, in Abu Dhabi, UAE, IACP is accepting applications for the IACP/UAE Ministry of Interior Police Academy Exchange Program. Through the program, a select number of U.S., Canadian, and international delegates will be enrolled in a five-month basic academy program at the Abu Dhabi Police College in Abu Dhabi, UAE.

The Abu Dhabi Police College requires entry-level Emirati cadets to complete a full bachelor's degree program while enrolled and takes several years to complete. The exchange program is a condensed version of the full academy program. The program will be conducted over the course of five months, from September 2026 to February 2027, and will culminate with a graduation ceremony in which each participant and their respective chief or agency representative will be invited to attend. As with most police college programs, the candidates can expect physical fitness, marching, practical exercises, and academic studies in a basic academy format.

Participation in the program is selective, based on the criteria below. Please note that this criteria is subject to change.

- Physically fit, 24 to 35 years of age
- Approximately 3-12 years of policing experience
- Active or sworn police official
- Cultural competency, adaptability, and openness to new ideas and practices
- Leadership experience/skills in policing and community engagement
- English language proficiency
    - Proficiency at the International English Language Testing System (IELTS) level of 5.5, or equivalent
- Passport with at least six months of validity and ability to travel to the UAE

Application Requirements:

- Written narrative of 250-500 words on why you should be selected for the program
    - Narrative should include your full name, rank, agency, and date of birth
- Resume or C/V
- Scan or photo of your passport
- List of prior trainings, certifications, and/or awards
- Letter of recommendation from your immediate supervisor
- Letter of recommendation from your chief of police/police commissioner
    - Letters of recommendation should include the name and email address of your immediate supervisor and chief of police/police commissioner

General Requirements:

- Applicants are expected to be familiar with the visa guidelines and entry requirements for the UAE when applying for the program.

- Selected officers will undergo medical evaluations in the UAE which will include the assessment of infectious and communicable diseases, physical fitness, and body composition including height, weight, and BMI.
- Selected officers are required to maintain regular communication with their agency leadership for the duration of the exchange program. Officers must notify their home agency upon selection and are responsible for providing general program updates to their leadership while enrolled at the Abu Dhabi Police College.

Additional Information

Expenses Covered by the UAE MOI:

- One roundtrip flight to and from the UAE
- Lodging at the Abu Dhabi Police College
- Daily meals – breakfast, lunch, and dinner on weekdays and weekends
- Group transportation to and from the Abu Dhabi Police College
- Medical insurance with healthcare coverage in the UAE
- Academy supplies - bags, ID cards, uniforms, graduation materials, and local SIM cards
- Monthly stipends

Frequently Asked Questions

- What are some personal and professional benefits of the exchange program?
  - The IACP/UAE MOI Police Academy Exchange Program offers significant professional and personal benefits by providing officers with immersive, hands-on training in an international academy setting. Participants gain exposure to modern policing strategies, leadership development, and advanced skills while also enhancing their cultural competency. The program fosters global collaboration and networking with officers from around the world, supporting career growth and broadening professional perspectives.

- What kind of training will be provided at the academy?
  - The basic academy curriculum will include courses on the topics of law sciences, police sciences, security sciences, police administration, general education, and work placement courses/specialized unit training. Much of the curriculum will be classroom-based with the exception of firearms training, drills, Physical Training (PT) and specialized unit training that will be hands-on.
  - Typical weekdays will include 8-12 hours of content each day with free time on weekends depending on weekly academy schedules.
  - The daily PT schedule will include physical exercises, specialized marching drills, shooting, running, and physical fitness.

- What are the living arrangements for the program?
  - All officers will be provided with single-occupancy rooms in a lodging facility at the Abu Dhabi Police College designated for international participants.
  - The lodging facility will be divided by gender with separate access points, which will include rooms and shared bathrooms for males, and rooms and shared bathrooms for females. The bathrooms will include shower and toilet stalls.
  - The lodging facility does not include kitchens.
  - A gym is available at the police college for use during free time.

- What are the dining options?
    - Breakfast, lunch, and dinner will be provided daily at the academy.
    - The consumption of alcohol is not permitted on academy grounds or within the lodging facility.

- What is the dress code?
    - Uniforms (field, academic, and PT) will be provided at the academy and are required to wear while on academy grounds. Uniforms will include two tailor-made uniforms (one field and one academic uniform), two sport-style shorts, two half-sleeve (short-sleeved) shirts, and one training suit.
    - Female uniforms will include long sleeved shirts and pants. Leggings can be worn for PT exercises with shorts over the leggings.
    - Delegates are asked to research and review cultural norms regarding modest dress and attire in the UAE prior to departure.
    - Casual attire is permitted during free time.
    - Traditional head coverings are not required.
    - Visible tattoos do not have to be covered.
    - Officers are asked to remove jewelry during physical and academic training at the police college.

- What are some of the general rules and regulations of the academy?
    - The use of cell phones and personal electronic devices are prohibited during the training day while at the academy. Cell phone use is limited to weeknights and weekends during free time.
    - Phones will be secured in a safe box at the police college during the day. Officers will have the ability to check their phones during breaks and during lunch.
    - UAE federal law prohibits photography and videography at the police college. Delegates are <u>not</u> permitted to take photos and/or videos on smartphones, cameras, and other personal electronic devices at any time while on academy grounds.
    - Wi-Fi is only available in the lodging facility.

- What are the emergency protocols?
    - Medical screenings, examinations, and bloodwork will be conducted within the first two weeks of arrival to the academy to assist in the processing of UAE residency visas, Emirati identification cards, and medical insurance.
        - Medical tests will be conducted to assess the health and wellbeing of each delegate, and to curtail the spread of infectious diseases throughout the police college.
    - Emergency contacts and procedures will be provided once in-country.

- Do I have to secure a visa to enter the UAE?
    - Visa expenses will be covered by the UAE MOI for those that will need work/entry visas. Applicants are asked to research visa requirements for their respective country prior to applying for the exchange program.

- During the exchange program, will general updates be relayed to my chief and agency leadership?
    - Selected officers are required to maintain regular communication with their agency leadership for the duration of the exchange program. Officers must notify their home agency upon selection and are responsible for providing general program updates to their leadership while enrolled at the Abu Dhabi Police College.

- Will I receive academic credits for my participation in the exchange program?
    - Officers that complete the exchange program will receive an Advanced Professional Diploma in Policing (32 credit hours) upon graduation. The diploma is accredited by the UAE Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research. Selected officers are responsible for determining if the diploma or earned academic credits are accepted by or transferable to academic institutions in their home country.

To apply for the program, please visit www.theiacp.org/IACP-UAE-Academy-Exchange-Program.

For any questions regarding the program or application process, please contact IACP staff at PoliceExchange@theIACP.org.