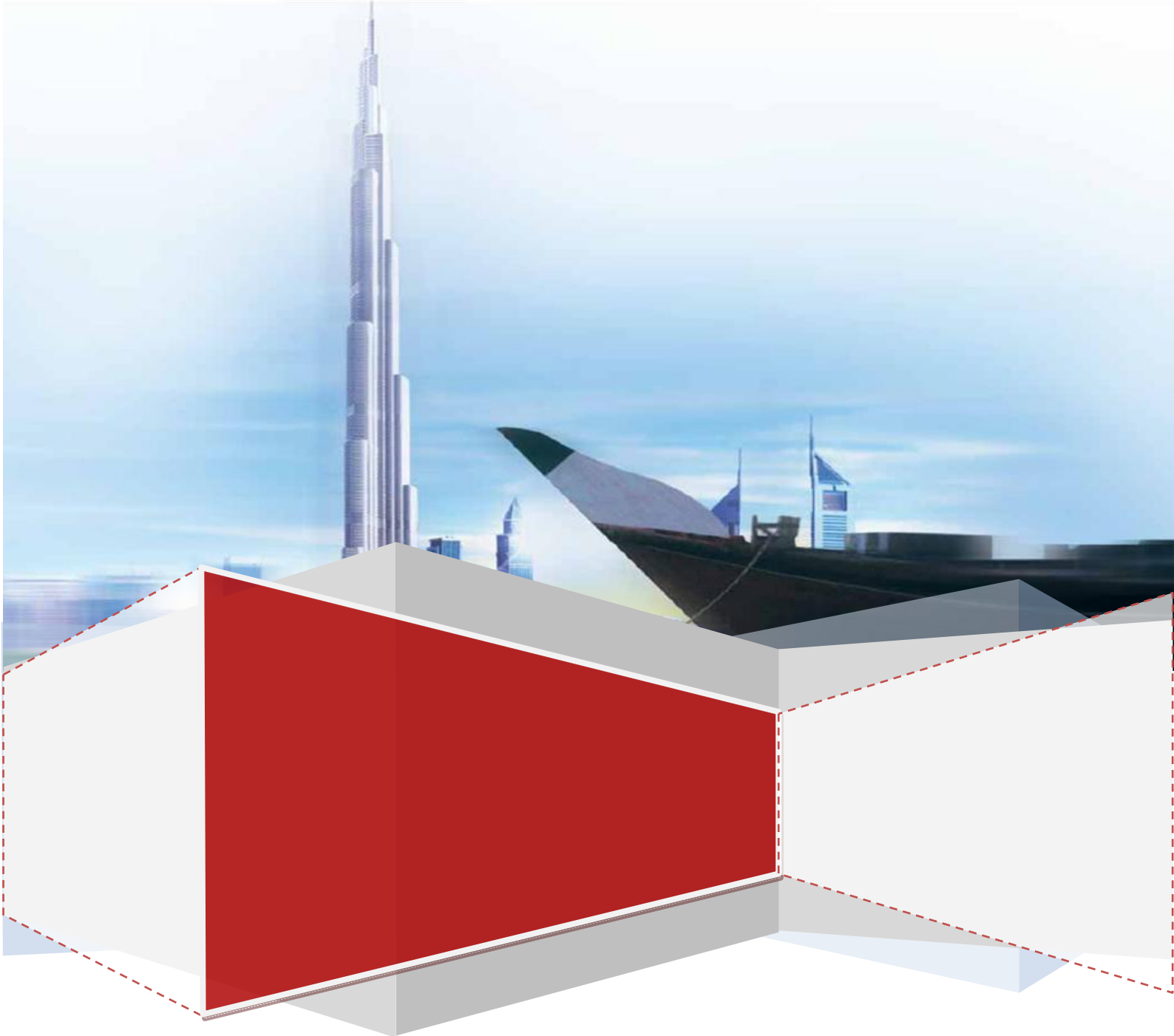


# Knowledge and Human Development Authority The Higher Education Landscape in Dubai 2010



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## Introduction

The Emirate of Dubai has been successful in developing its status as an international city within a relatively short period of time. This report examines the state of the current higher education environment in Dubai by identifying the range and number of institutions, programs available, and the number of students enrolled.

The objective of this report is to provide a data snapshot of total higher education student enrolment in Dubai, including institutions in the Free Zones. This will enable policy-makers and education leaders to make strategic decisions and plan for higher education initiatives. As a result of its Strategic Plan 2015, Dubai has been set with major challenges to ensure that the Emirate develops its social and educational infrastructure to support future growth.

The data within this report were collected in October 2010, which marks the beginning of the academic year for most higher education institutions in Dubai. Data were collected directly from institutions who are current providers of higher education in the Emirate. Such data are pertinent in providing an accurate picture of the academic environment: the trends, developments and demands for higher education in Dubai now and in the future. In the future, data will be collected annually each October.

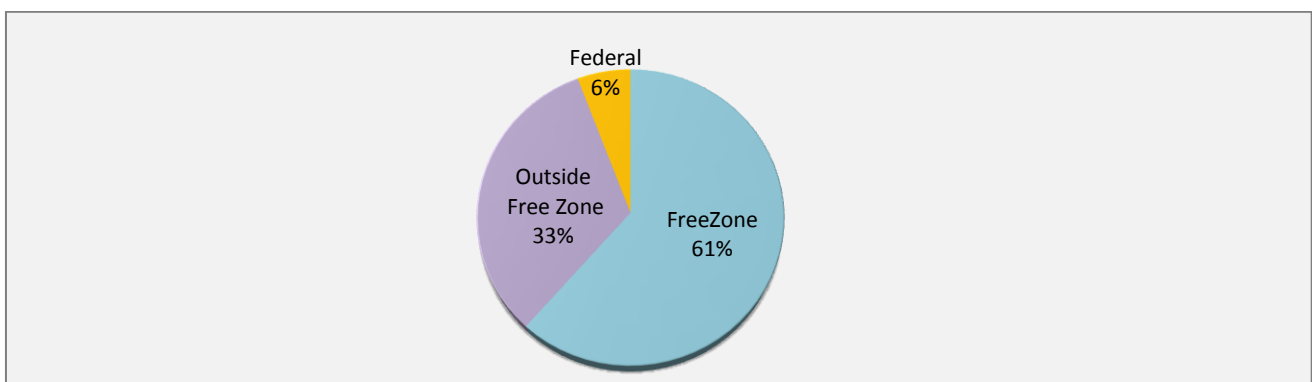
As of October 2010, there are 52 higher education institutions in Dubai, with a total of 39,127 students. This is a 2% increase in the number of higher education students compared to October 2009, and a 10% increase in the number of Emirati students studying in Dubai.

## Higher education institutions in Dubai

For the purpose of this report, a Higher Education institution is defined as an institution of education that has a physical presence in Dubai and has dedicated full time faculty to teach its programs, or faculty from the home institution are flown to Dubai to teach students. This report covers all higher educational institutions in the Emirate that offer associate degrees and above including the Higher Colleges of Technology (HCT) and the National Institute of Vocational Education (NIVE), which is a provider of vocational education programs.

There are 52 institutions in Dubai that offer higher education programs, and they are grouped into three categories in this report; federal institutions, institutions in the Free Zones and institutions outside the Free Zones (Graph 1). Zayed University, Dubai Women's College, and Dubai Men's College are the three federal institutions, making up 6% of the total number of institutions in Dubai. Federal institutions cater predominantly to Emirati students and are institutions that were established by a Federal decree. A list of institutions can be found in the Appendix. Education providers that offer online or distance education programs are not included as part of this study.

**Graph 1:** Different categories of higher education institutions in Dubai, October 2010



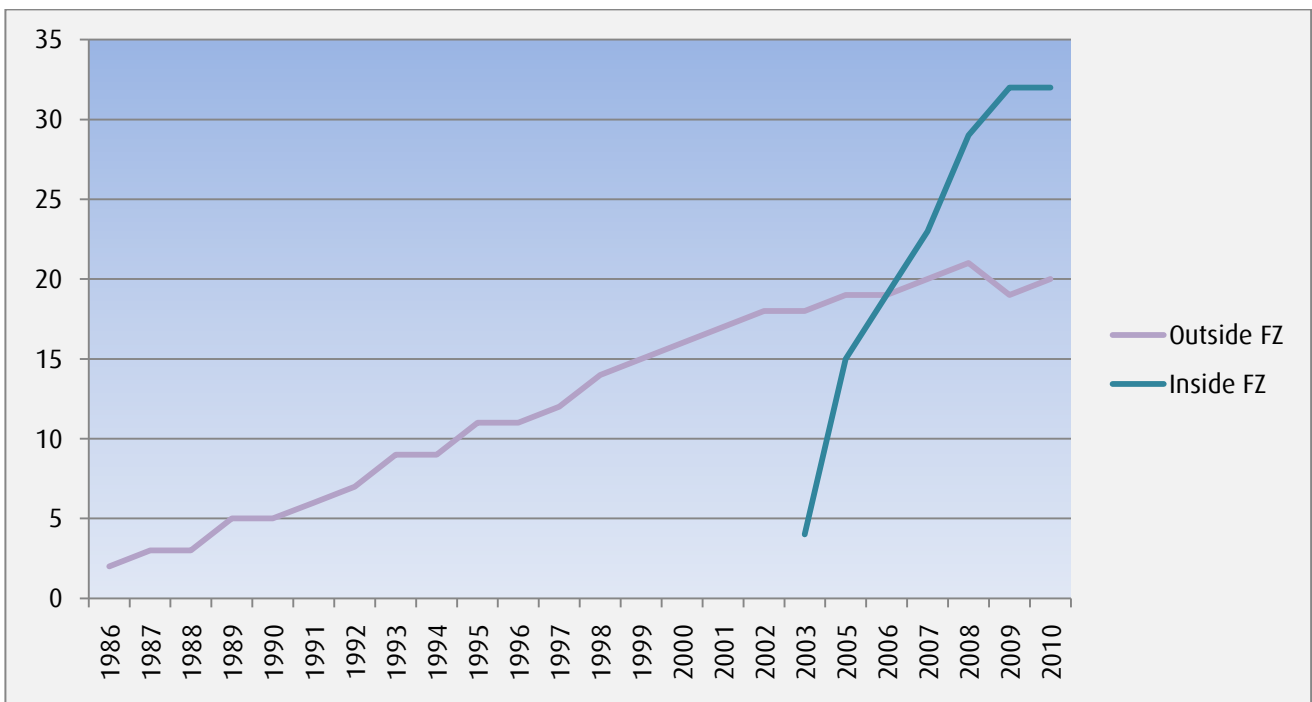
## Dubai's purpose built zones

Dubai has established a number of Free Zones designed to facilitate international investment and economic growth, and also the provision of international higher education. Due to their forward-looking policies and dynamic facilities and infrastructure, a number of Free Zones have attracted higher educational institutions from all around the world to provide high quality international degrees in an environment where alternative licensing provisions are available.

Dubai Knowledge Village (DKV) was opened in 2003, as the first Purpose Built Zone to house education institutions. In its first year of operation the Free Zone attracted eight higher education institutions to set up at DKV, some of which were operating outside the Free Zone prior to its establishment. The popularity of Free Zones encouraged the local Government to establish several more, including Dubai International Financial Centre (DIFC) and Dubai Healthcare City (DHCC) in 2004. Today there are five Free Zones in Dubai with higher education institutions across several different sectors. Due to the exponential growth of DKV, Dubai International Academic City (DIAC) was established in 2005 as a Free Zone to house educational institutions offering degree programs. It is intended that DKV will in the future focus on training providers.

Since the establishment of the DKV in 2003, there has been a 77% increase in the number of higher educational institutions offering international programs to students in Dubai. Graph 2 shows the exponential growth of institutions setting up in Free Zones compared to the growth of the number of institutions outside the Free Zones. The establishment of these purpose built environments has attracted a variety of institutions and international programs to Dubai in a short period of time. The rapid expansion of higher education institutions in Dubai's Free Zones is a measure of the success of this initiative.

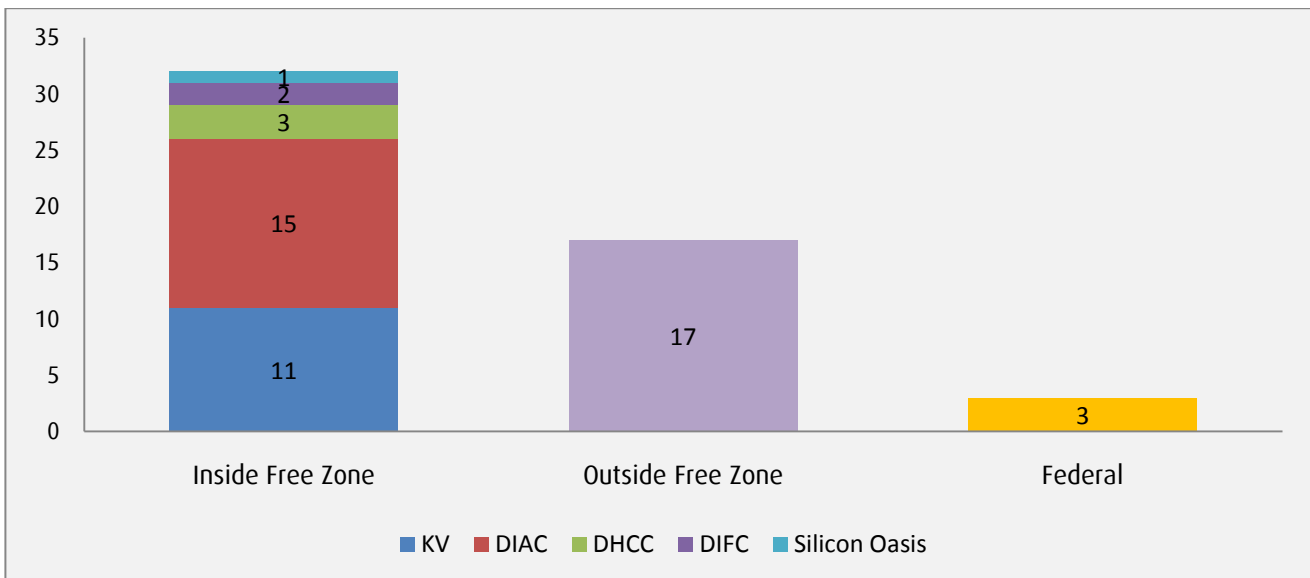
**Graph 2: The number of higher education institutions in Dubai (1986 - 2010)**



## Location of higher education institutions

Sixty-one percent (32) of higher educational institutions in Dubai are located within Free Zone areas, with the majority of these institutions located in DIAC and KV. Free Zones other than KV and DIAC aim to attract institutions that provide education that focuses on priority areas of that particular industry zone, such as health or finance. The remaining 33% of institutions are located outside Free Zones. For a breakdown of the total number of institutions across Free Zones please see Graph 3.

**Graph 3: Number of higher education institutions inside and outside Free Zones in Dubai, October 2010**



## Educational permits and quality assurance

The University and Quality Assurance International Board (UQAIB) was established by KHDA in 2008 to assure the quality of higher education in institutions in the Free Zones. UQAIB uses a validation model to ensure that the academic program being delivered in the branch campus is the same as that provided at the home campus of the institution. The ten members of the Board have experience in Quality Assurance, transnational higher education, accreditation and senior academic experience at Higher Education institutions. They are from the USA, UK, Australia, New Zealand, India, Hong Kong, Saudi Arabia and South Africa.

All higher education institutions located in Dubai's Free Zones (and not accredited by the federal Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research) must undergo the UQAIB quality assurance process to receive an educational permit and have their academic programs registered by KHDA.

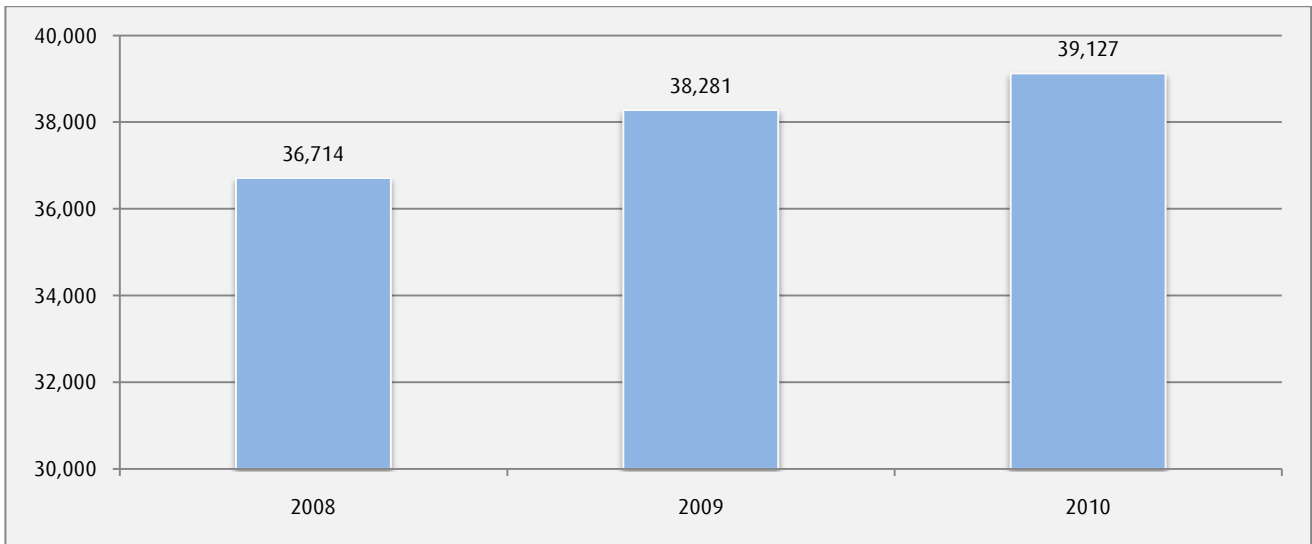
The Commission for Academic Accreditation (CAA), which is part of the federal Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research, requires all institutions that are located outside a Free Zone to be licensed by the CAA. Once an institution is licensed by the CAA it must then apply for accreditation for each of its academic programs. Institutions located in a Free Zone can also seek CAA accreditation.

Twenty institutions (38% of those in Dubai) offer international programs that are accredited by the quality agency of the home country and may also have program accreditation from external professional bodies. Twenty-nine institutions (56% of the total in Dubai) are licensed by CAA and have UAE accreditation for their programs; a number of these institutions also have program accreditation from external bodies, such as ABET and AACSB.

## Student enrolment

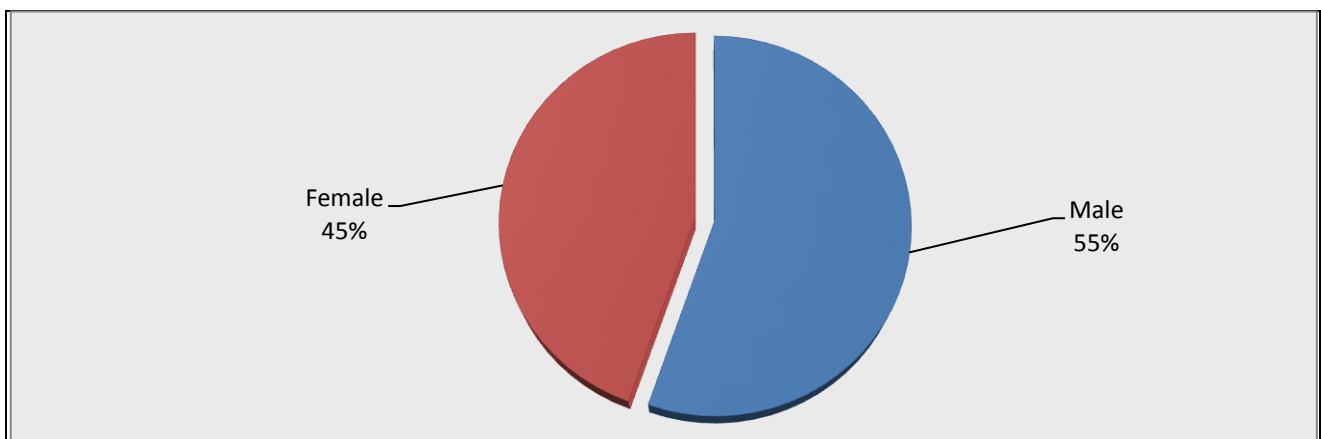
There is a total of 39,127 students studying at higher education institutions in Dubai; this includes both full-time and part-time students. This represents a 2% growth in the total number of students from October 2009, and 6.5% growth since 2008 (Graph 4). The majority of universities have less than 500 students and seven universities have more than 2,000 students.

**Graph 4: Total student enrolment in Dubai (2008-2010)**



There are slightly more male students (55%) than female students (45%) studying in all higher education institutions in Dubai (Graph 5).

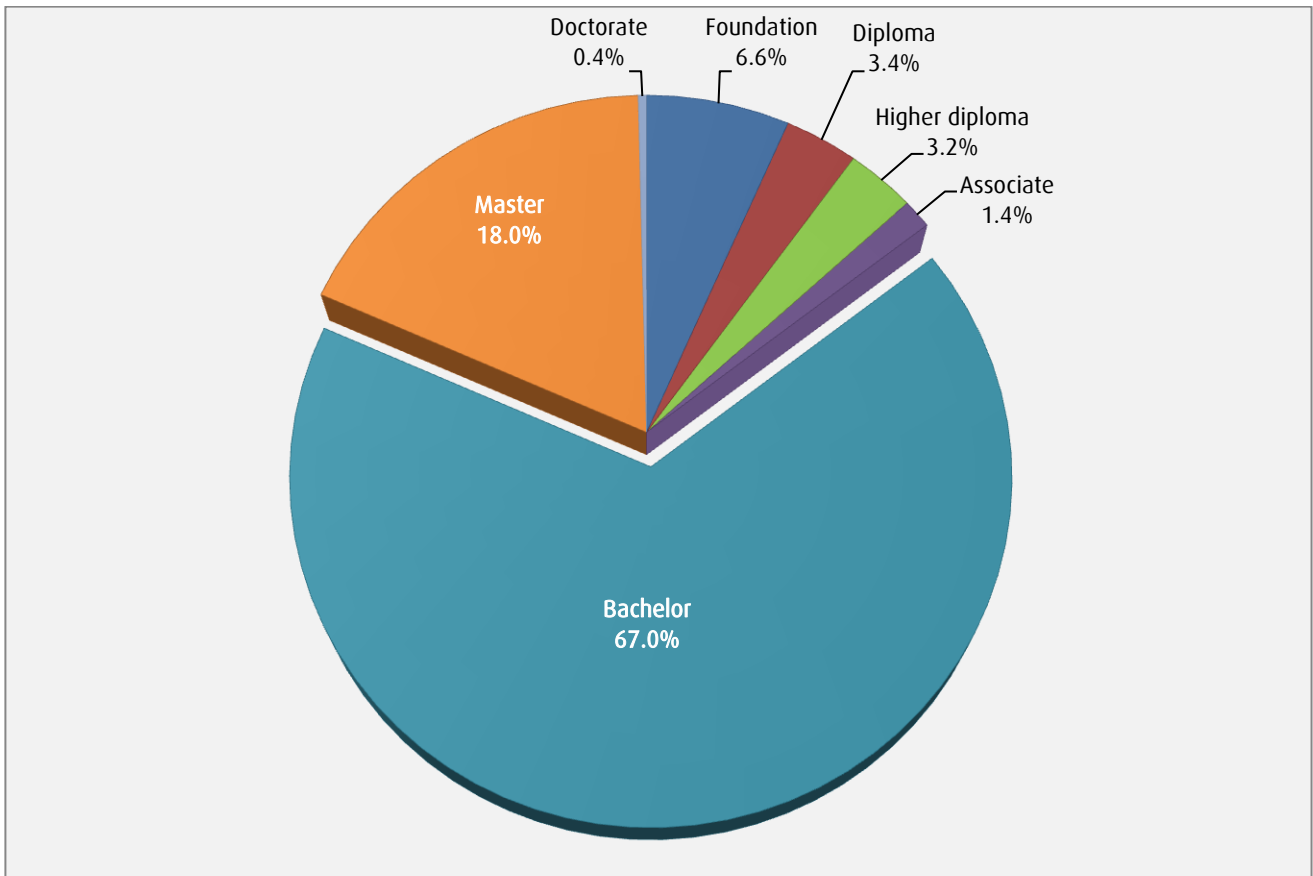
**Graph 5: Percentage of male and female students in Dubai, October 2010.**



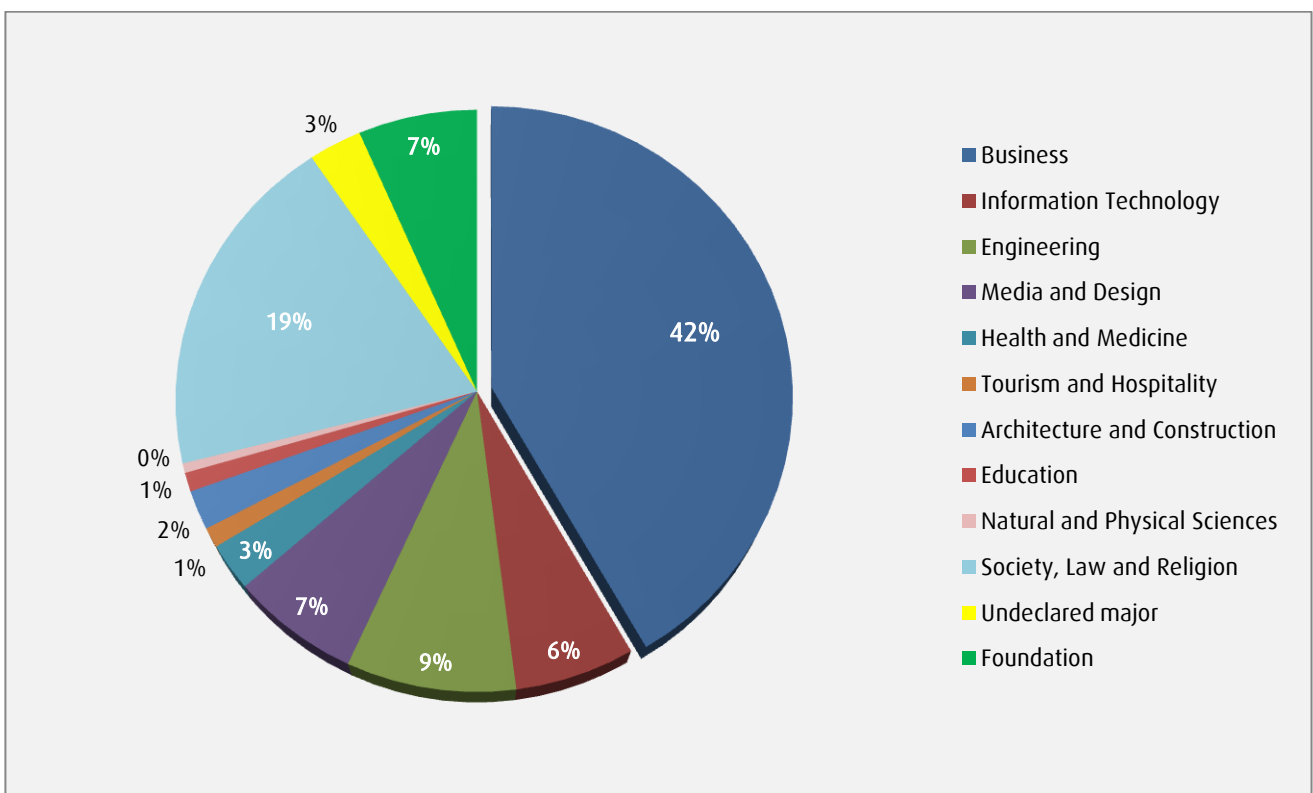
Students are enrolled in a wide variety of programs in Dubai, from diplomas to doctoral level. The majority of all students (67%) are taking bachelor programs, with 18% enrolled in master's degrees (see Graph 6).

The most popular field of study among students in Dubai is Business (42% of students), followed by Society, Law and Religion (19%) (Graph 7). Significant numbers are also studying Engineering (9%), Information Technology (6%) and Media and Design (7%). There are very few students studying Health and Medicine (2%), Education (1%), Natural and Physical Sciences (1%) and Tourism and Hospitality (1%). Around 7% of all students are in Foundation programs that prepare school leavers with necessary skills for university study.

**Graph 6:** Programs of study of students in all Dubai higher education institutions, October 2010

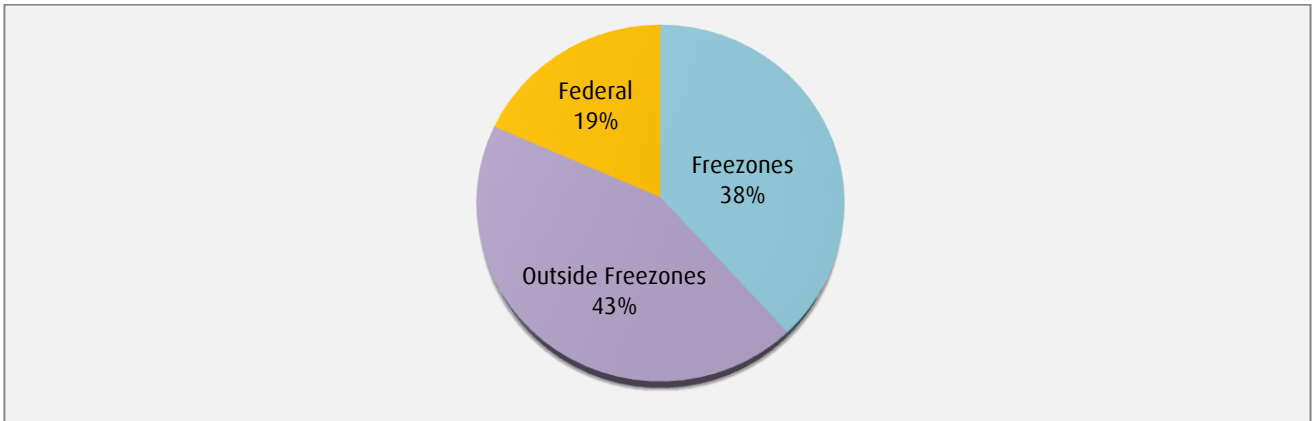


**Graph 7:** Fields of study of students in all Dubai higher education institutions, October 2010



Graph 8 shows the relative number of students enrolled in higher education institutions in Dubai: inside the Free Zones, outside the Free Zones and federal institutions. There are 14,969 students enrolled in 32 institutions in the Free Zones, and 16,951 students enrolled in 17 institutions outside the Free Zones.

**Graph 8: Students enrolled at the different types of institutions in Dubai**

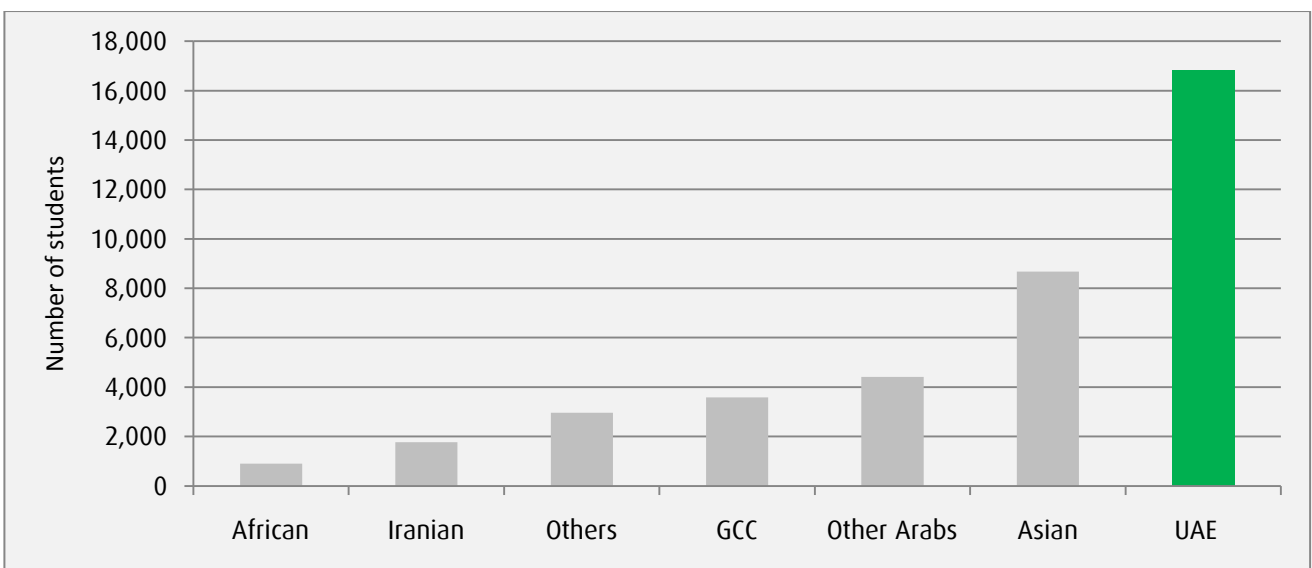


The Islamic and Arabic Studies College is the largest institution in Dubai in terms of enrolment with 3,197 students, 10% of the total student population. The largest federal institution is Zayed University, which has 2,960 students. The largest institution in the Free Zones is the University of Wollongong in Dubai with 2,173 students.

The ten largest institutions in terms of size of student body enroll around 23,000 students in Dubai. This means that 20% of Dubai's higher education institutions provide education to 59% of the total student population. This figure covers all three federal institutions with an enrolment of 7,207 students, mostly Emirati.

Students studying in Dubai have a wide range of nationalities (Graph 9).

**Graph 9: Student enrolment by nationality, October 2010**

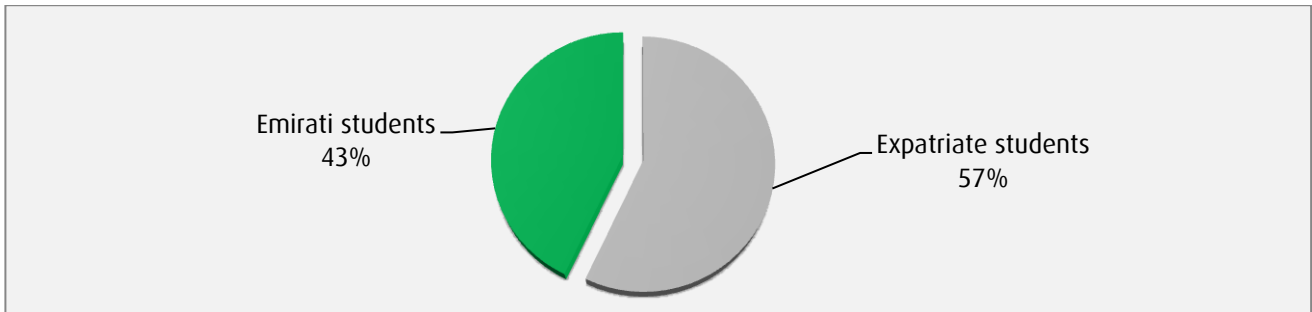




## Emirati participation in higher education

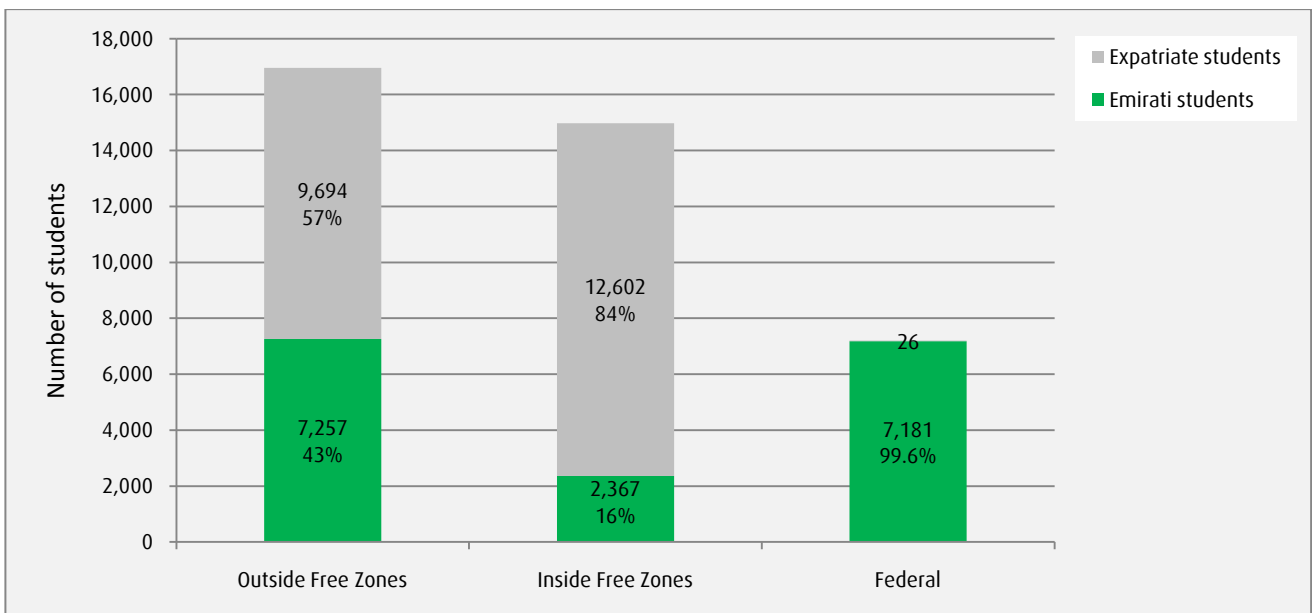
One of the goals of the Dubai government and KHDA is to increase the enrolment of Emirati students in Dubai. Emirati students make up 43% (16,805) of the total population of students in Dubai (Graph 10). This is a 10% increase in enrolment of Emirati students since October 2009.

**Graph 10:** Percentage of Emirati and expatriate students in Dubai, October 2010



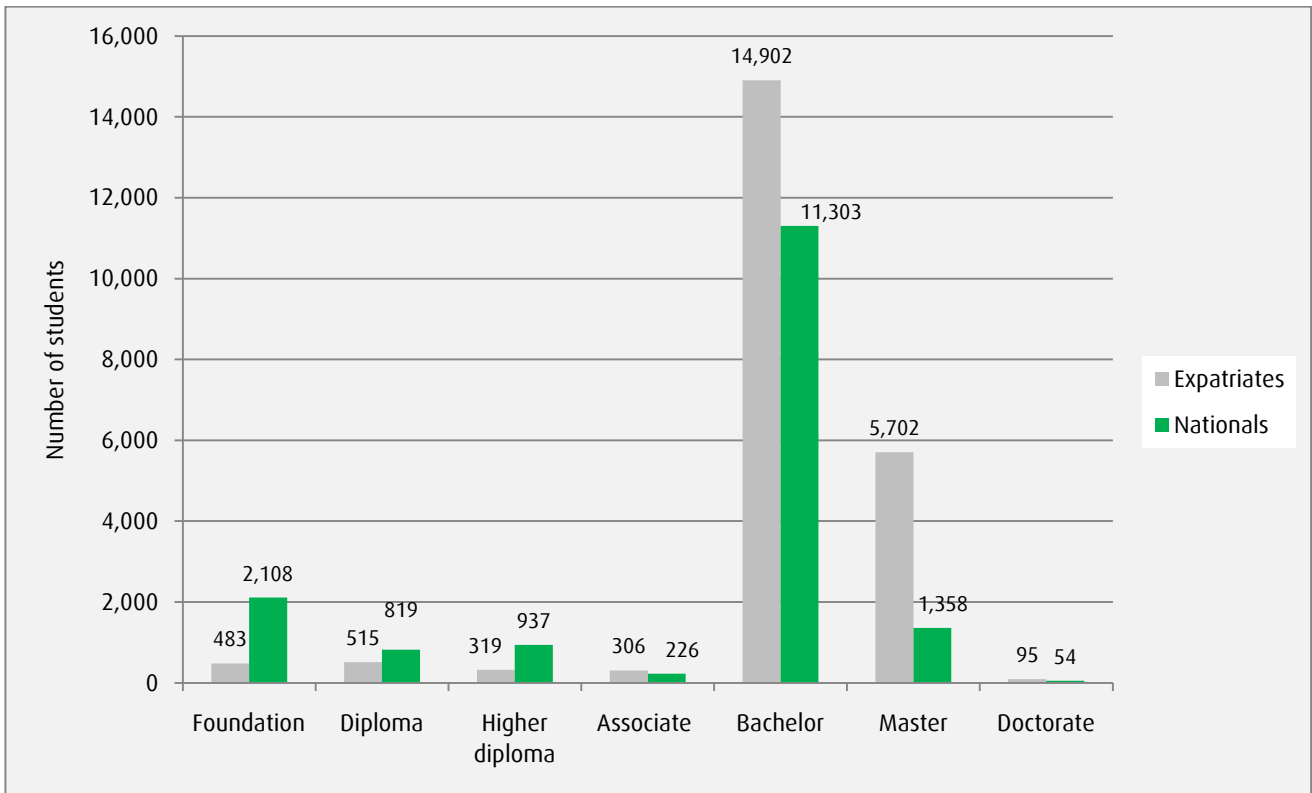
Federal institutions attract the largest proportion (7,181 or 43%) of Emirati students. Fourteen percent of Emirati students are attending institutions in Dubai's Free Zones, and a further 43% are attending institutions outside the Free Zones (Graph 11).

**Graph 11:** Location of study of Emirati and expatriate students, October 2010



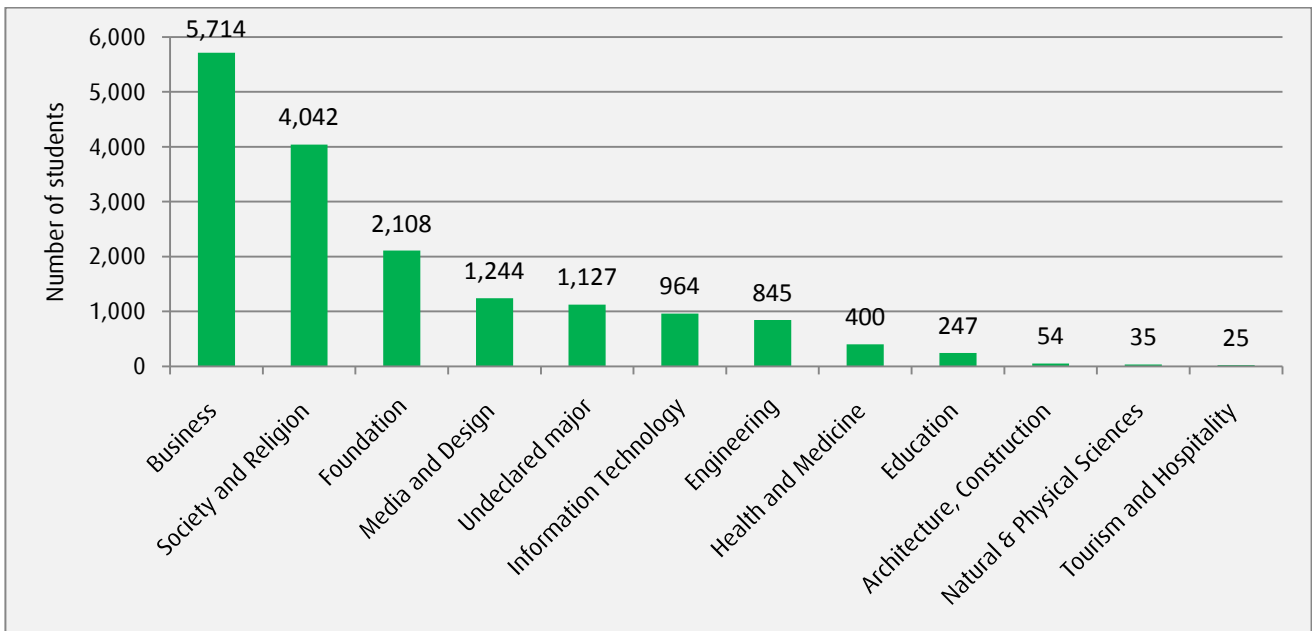
There are more Emirati students than expatriates enrolled in foundation, diploma and higher diploma programs. However, 77% of Emiratis are studying bachelor programs, and 9% are studying master's degrees (Graph 12).

**Graph 12:** Types of program studied by Emirati and expatriate students, October 2010



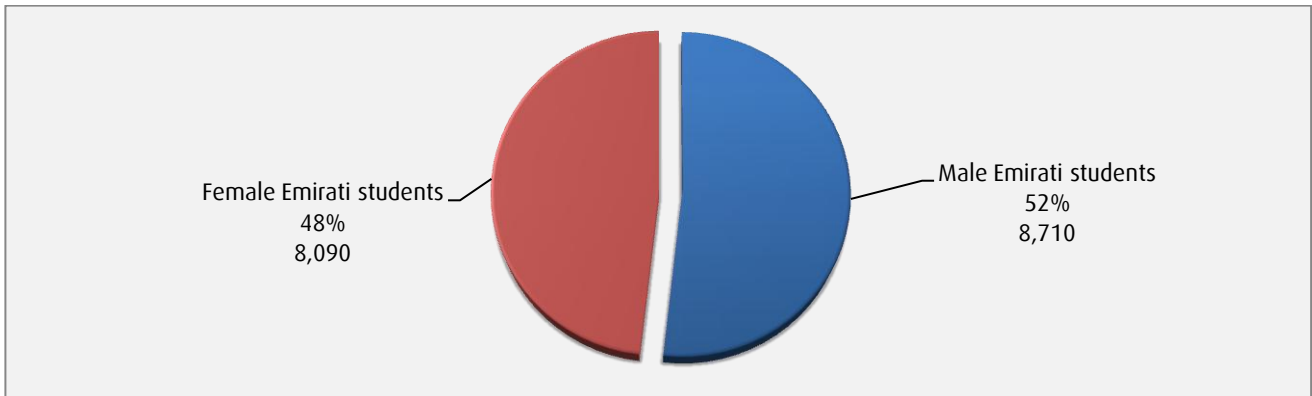
Graph 13 shows the fields of study of Emirati students in all higher education institutions in October 2010. The most popular field of study among Emirati students is Business (34%), followed by Society, Law and Religion (24%). Around 13% of Emirati students are taking Foundation programs. Media and Design (7%), Information Technology (6%) and Engineering (5%) are also selected by many Emirati students. There are small numbers in Education (2%) and Health and Medicine (2%), and very few Emiratis are choosing Tourism and Hospitality and Natural and Physical Sciences.

**Graph 13:** Fields of study of Emirati students in Dubai, October 2010



There are slightly more male Emirati students (52%) than female students (48%) studying in all of Dubai's higher education institutions (Graph 14).

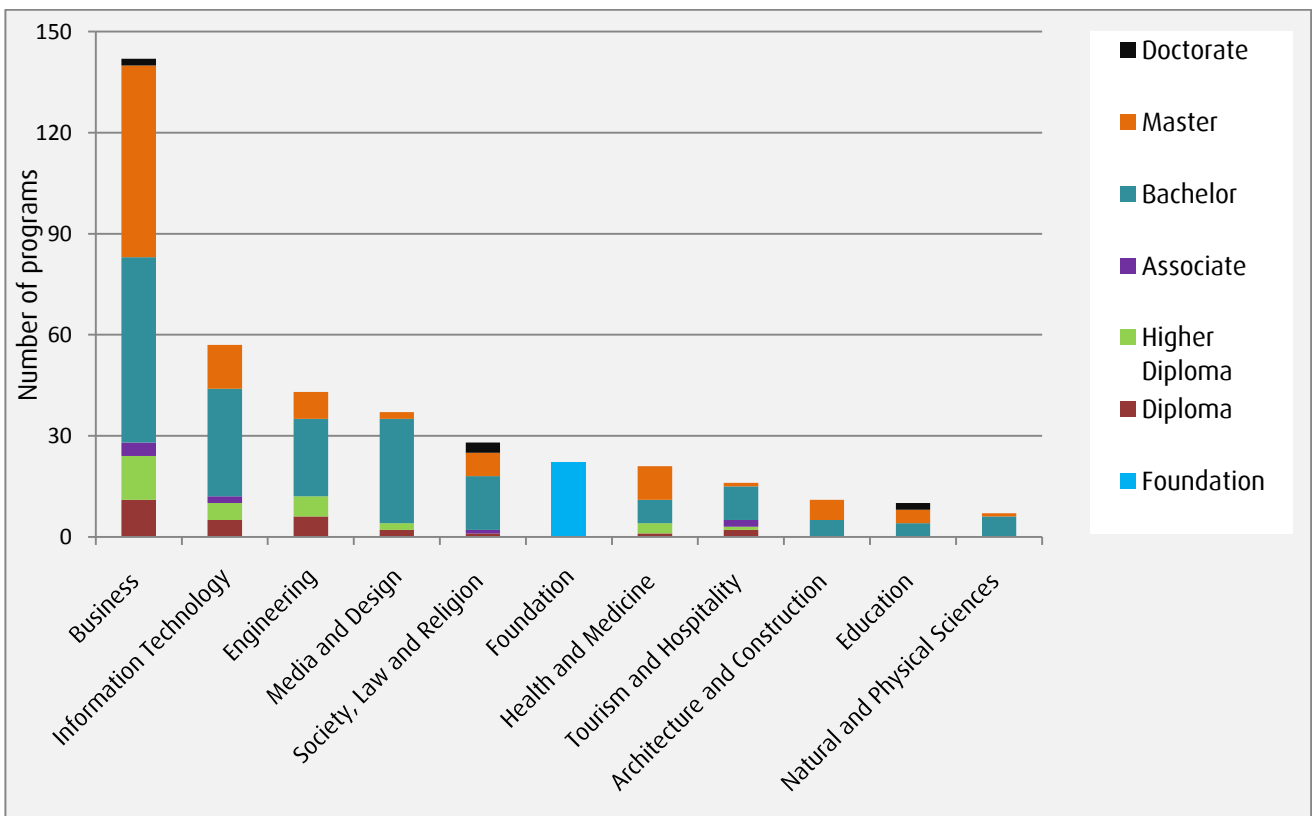
**Graph 14:** Percentage of male and female Emirati students, October 2010.



## Academic programs offered in Dubai

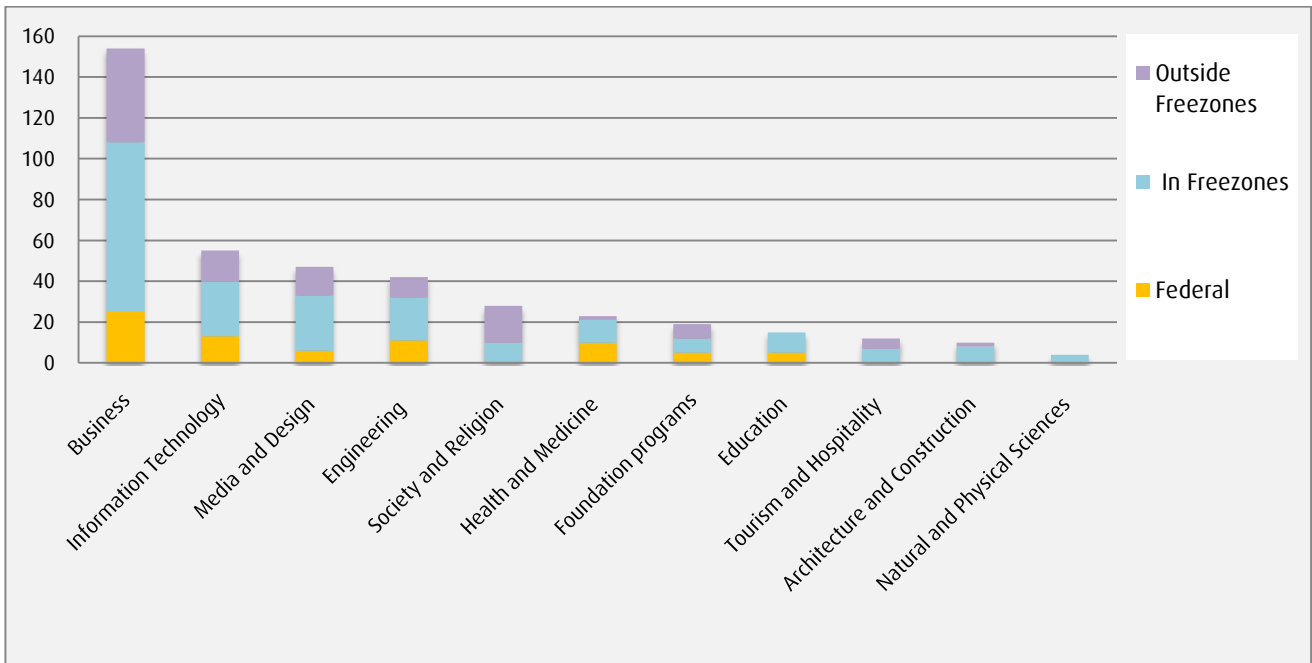
Students are registered in 394 academic programs in Dubai. The majority of these programs (189 or 48%) are at Bachelor level, and a further 109 programs (28%) are Master's degrees. See Graph 15 for further details.

**Graph 15:** Academic programs in Dubai by level and major field of study, October 2010



In a short time, Dubai has been able to successfully introduce a large number of quality higher education programs. The majority of program offerings (36%) are within the field of Business, and there are relatively few programs in Education, Health and Medicine, and Natural and Physical Sciences. Graph 16 illustrates the range of programs offered by the different higher education institutions in Dubai.

**Graph 16: Academic programs offered by different types of Higher Education Institutions, October 2010**

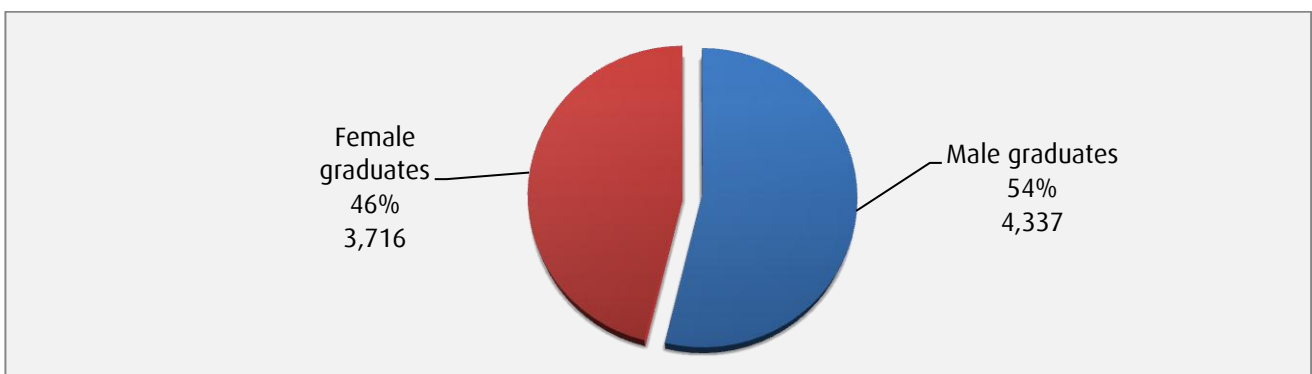


It is evident that a greater variety of programs are required to ensure that Dubai addresses the education needs for a more diverse population. As the population in the UAE and surrounding Gulf countries increases, the demand for healthcare, transportation, school education, financial services and housing increases. This translates into the need for more qualified health professionals, teachers, and engineers. In order to meet the demands of Dubai's economy it is important to develop and increase the variety of program offerings. University research is limited at this time, and is an area that also requires development in Dubai.

## Graduates

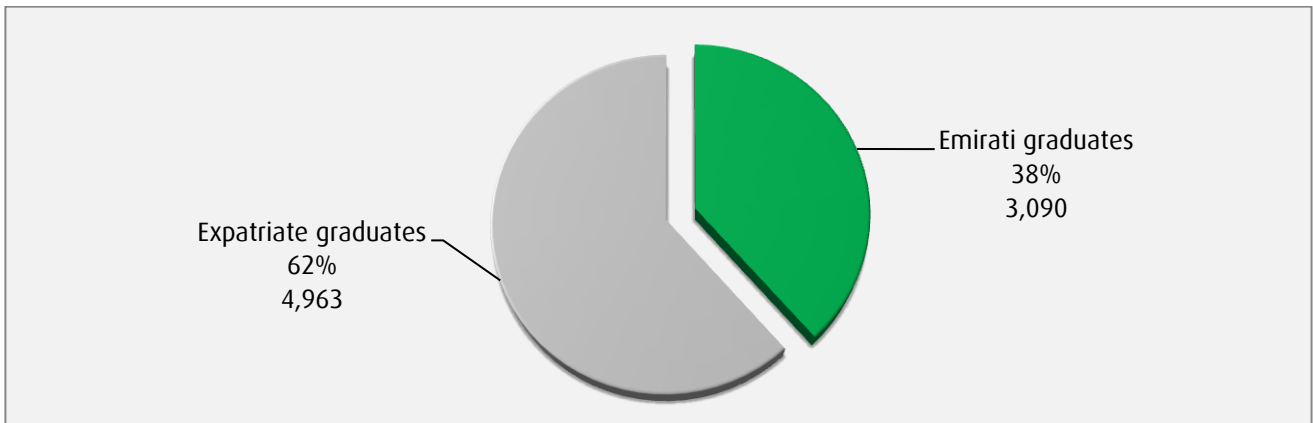
In the academic year 2009/10, there were 8,053 graduates from Dubai's higher education institutions. There were slightly more male graduates (54%) than female (46%), as in Graph 17.

**Graph 17: Percentage of male and female graduates, 2009/10**



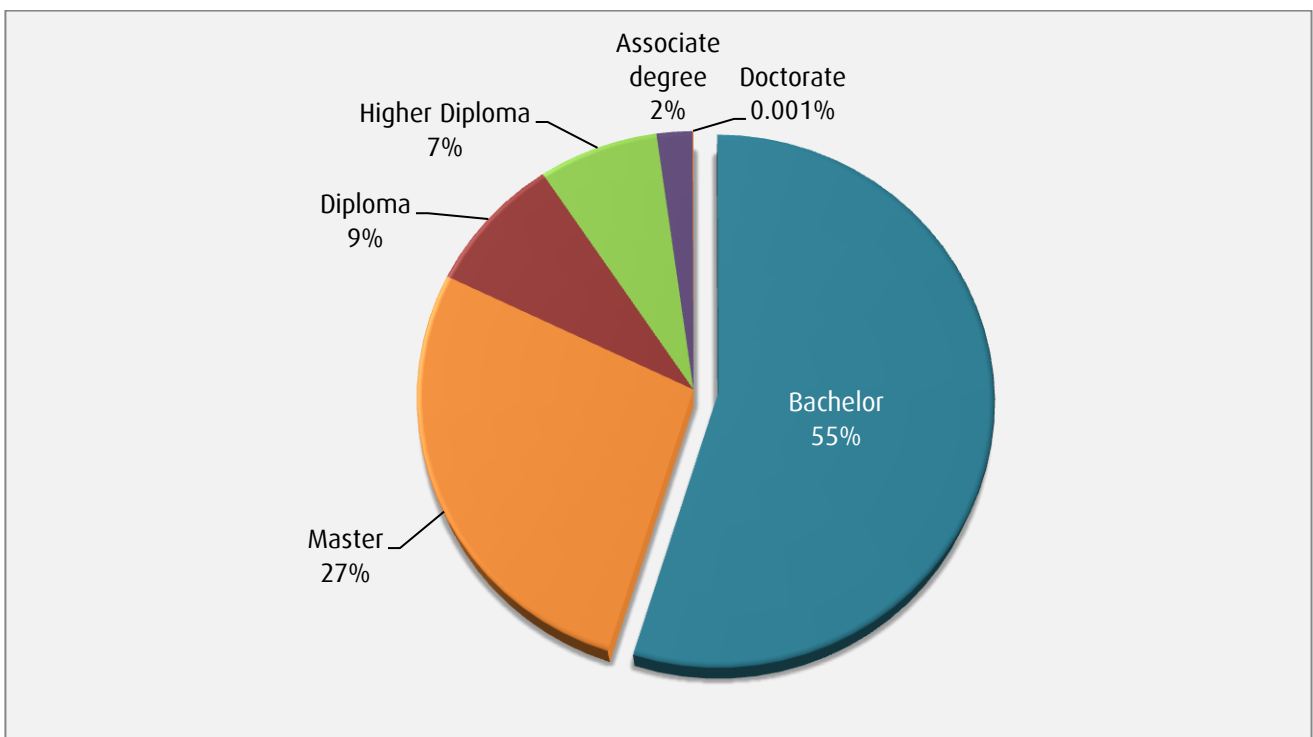
There were 3,090 Emiratis graduating in that year, or 38% of the total graduates (Graph 18).

**Graph 18:** Percentage of Emirati and expatriate graduates, 2009/2010



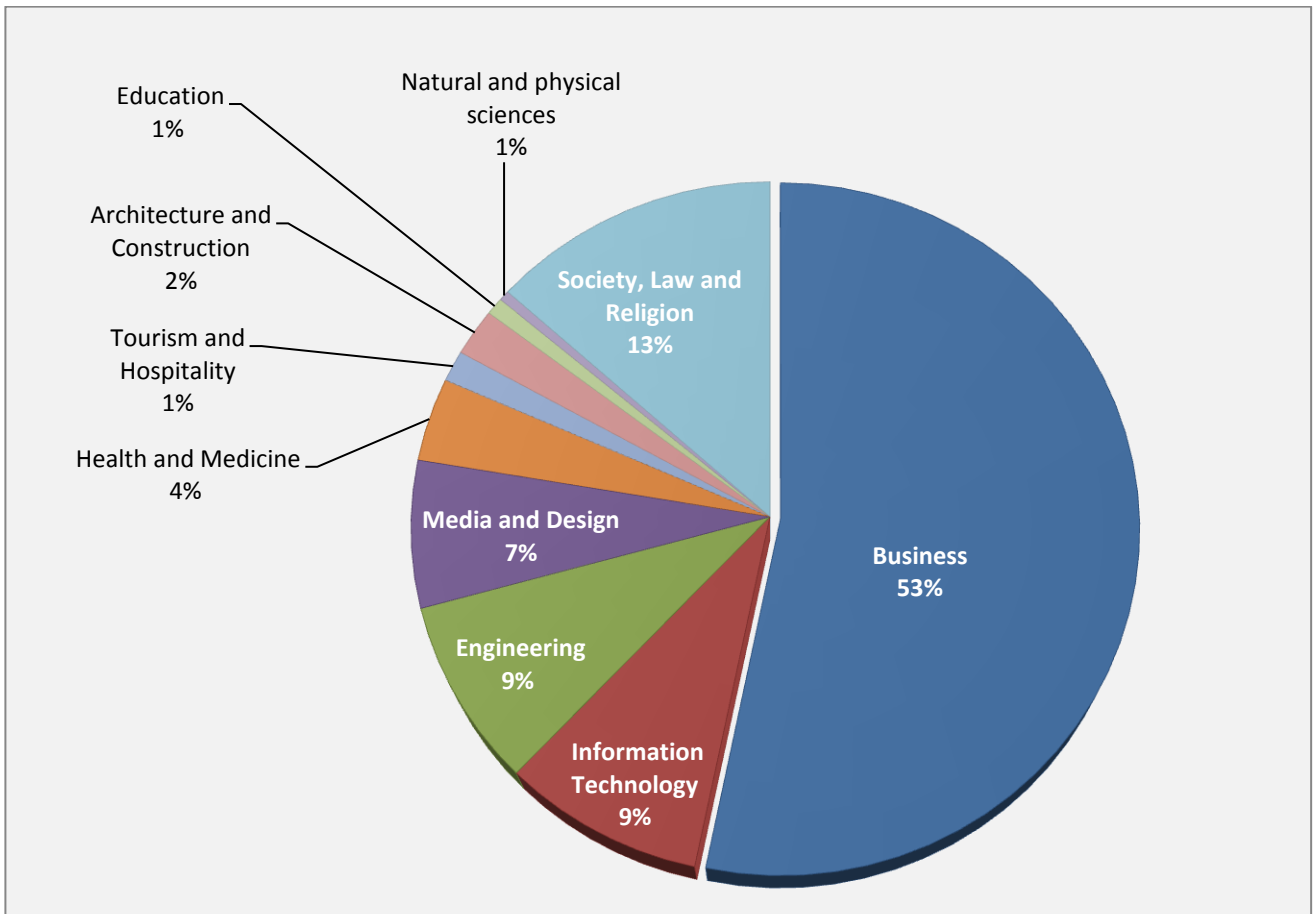
Most of the graduates (55% or 4,419) were awarded a bachelors degree, 27% (2,191 graduates) obtained a masters degree , and 5 graduates (0.001%) obtained a doctoral degree (Graph 19).

**Graph 19:** Degrees awarded to all Dubai graduates, 2009/10



More than half of the graduates (53% or 4,289) were in a range of business programs, followed by 13% (1,082) who graduated in society, law and religion. The numbers of IT graduates (9% or 714) was similar to those in Engineering (9% or 696). There were relatively few graduates in Natural and Physical sciences (1% or 39), Education (1% or 66) and Tourism and Hospitality (1% or 118). See Graph 20 for further details.

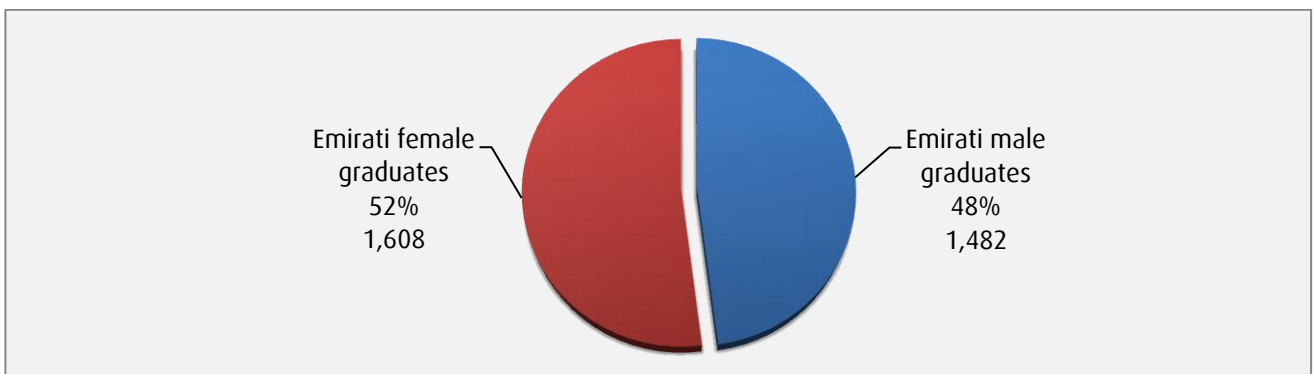
**Graph 20:** Fields of study of all Dubai graduates, 2009/10



## Emirati graduates

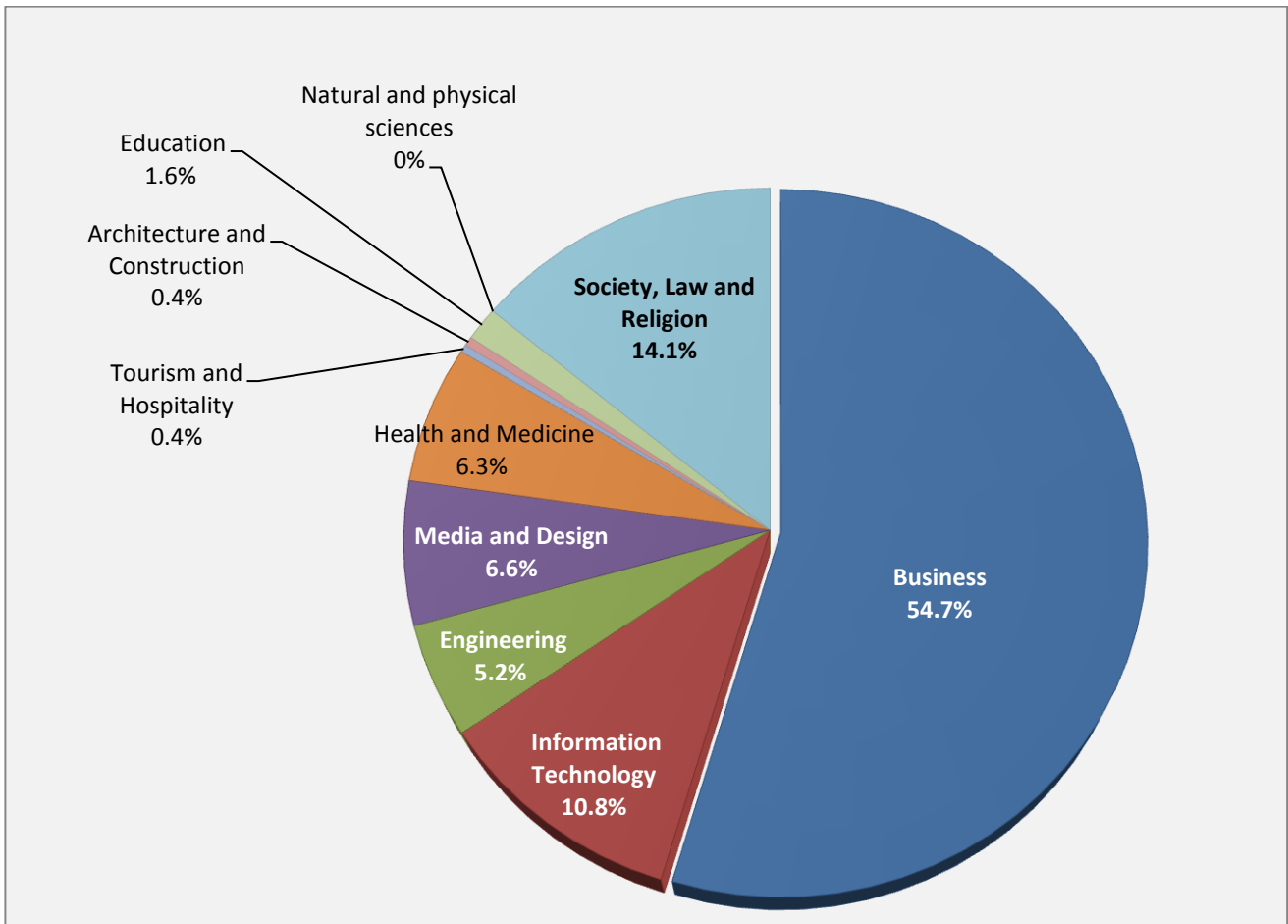
There were slightly more Emirati female graduates (52%) than male (48%) in 2009/10 (Graph 21).

**Graph 21:** Percentage of male and female Emirati graduates, 2009/10



Most of the graduates (54.6% or 1,689) were in business programs, followed by 14% (435) in Society, Law and Religion. 6% (196) of the Emirati graduates were in the field of Health and Medicine, and 2% (48) in Education. There were very few graduates (11) in Tourism and Hospitality, and no graduates in Natural and physical sciences (see Graph 22 for more details).

**Graph 22: Fields of study of Emirati graduates from Dubai's higher education institutions, 2009/10**



## Advancing higher education in Dubai

The development of a world class education system is of great importance to Dubai and the United Arab Emirates.

Today there are 39,127 students studying in higher education institutions. This is a great achievement as Dubai has seen its higher education student population quadruple over the last ten years.

Dubai's education landscape has changed dramatically since the establishment of several Purpose Built Zones, which have provided an attractive location for international institutions of higher education to establish a presence in Dubai, and increased the provision of quality higher education to its citizens and residents. International branch campuses have contributed significantly to the growth of higher education in Dubai. Collectively, Free Zones campuses offer a wider range of programs than universities outside the Free Zones. By providing an accredited degree from the home institution, these universities are meeting the demand from Emiratis and resident expatriates, as well as attracting international students to the emirate. Today Dubai is home to 52 different higher education institutions, most of which are international branch campuses from 11 different countries.

There is a need to offer a greater set of academic programs covering a wider spectrum of qualifications that address the targeted areas of Dubai's economy. Growing student numbers and improving access to higher education, especially for Emirati nationals, is a key priority for individual growth and the needs of the local government. Also important is the need to produce the relevant skills essential to drive economic growth and development. Dubai is increasingly committed to expanding and transforming the higher education landscape.

## Appendix

### List of Higher Education Providers in Dubai 2010

#### Federal Institutions (3 institutions)

Institution	Website
Dubai Men's College	<a href="http://dbm.hct.ac.ae">http://dbm.hct.ac.ae</a>
Dubai Women's College	<a href="http://dwc.hct.ac.ae">http://dwc.hct.ac.ae</a>
Zayed University	<a href="http://www.zu.ac.ae">www.zu.ac.ae</a>

#### Outside Free Zones (17 institutions)

Institution	Website
Al Ghurair University	<a href="http://www.agu.ae">www.agu.ae</a>
American College of Dubai	<a href="http://www.centamed.com">www.centamed.com</a>
American University in Dubai	<a href="http://www.aud.edu">www.aud.edu</a>
Biotechnology University College	<a href="http://www.buc.ac.ae">www.buc.ac.ae</a>
Canadian University in Dubai	<a href="http://www.cud.ac.ae">www.cud.ac.ae</a>
Computer College	<a href="http://www.cc-uae.com">www.cc-uae.com</a> - <a href="http://www.dmcg.edu">www.dmcg.edu</a>
Dubai Medical College for Girls	<a href="http://www.dmcg.edu">www.dmcg.edu</a>
Dubai Pharmacy College	<a href="http://www.dpc.edu">www.dpc.edu</a>
Dubai Police Academy	<a href="http://www.dubaipolice.gov.ae">www.dubaipolice.gov.ae</a>
Dubai School of Government	<a href="http://www.dsg.ae">www.dsg.ae</a>
Emirates Academy of Hospitality Management	<a href="http://www.emiratesacademy.edu">www.emiratesacademy.edu</a>
Emirates Aviation College	<a href="http://www.emiratesaviationcollege.com">www.emiratesaviationcollege.com</a>
Emirates College for Management and Information Technology	<a href="http://www.ecmit.ae">www.ecmit.ae</a>
Islamic and Arabic Studies College	<a href="http://www.islamic-college.ae">www.islamic-college.ae</a>
University of Dubai	<a href="http://www.ud.ac.ae">www.ud.ac.ae</a>
University of Jazeera	<a href="http://www.uojazeera.com">www.uojazeera.com</a>
University of Strathclyde Business School-UAE	<a href="http://www.gsb.strath.ac.uk">www.gsb.strath.ac.uk</a>



### Inside Free Zones (32 institutions)

Institution	Website	Location
American University in the Emirates	<a href="http://www.aue.ac.ae">www.aue.ac.ae</a>	DIAC
Birla Institute of Technology and Science (BITS Pilani)	<a href="http://www.bitsdubai.com">www.bitsdubai.com</a>	DIAC
Boston University Institute for Dental Research and Education	<a href="http://www.budubai.ae">www.budubai.ae</a>	DHCC
British University in Dubai	<a href="http://www.buid.ac.ae">www.buid.ac.ae</a>	DKV
Cambridge College International	<a href="http://www.cambridgecollegeinternational.com.au">www.cambridgecollegeinternational.com.au</a>	DKV
CASS Business School (City University)	<a href="http://www.cass.city.ac.uk">www.cass.city.ac.uk</a>	DIFC
ESMOD	<a href="http://www.french-fashionuniversity.com">www.french-fashionuniversity.com</a>	DIAC
European University College Brussels (EHSAL)	<a href="http://www.ehsal-dubai.net">www.ehsal-dubai.net</a>	DKV
Exeter University	<a href="http://www.exeter.ac.uk">www.exeter.ac.uk</a>	DKV
Hamdan bin Mohamed e-University	<a href="http://www.hbmeu.ac.ae/en/home">www.hbmeu.ac.ae/en/home</a>	DIAC
Heriot Watt University	<a href="http://www.hw.ac.uk/dubai">www.hw.ac.uk/dubai</a>	DIAC
Hult International Business School	<a href="http://www.hult.edu">www.hult.edu</a>	DIAC
Imam Malik College	<a href="http://www.malikcol.ae">www.malikcol.ae</a>	DIAC
Institute of Management Technology - Dubai	<a href="http://imtdubai.org">http://imtdubai.org</a>	DIAC
Islamic Azad University	<a href="http://www.iau.ae">www.iau.ae</a>	DKV
London Business School	<a href="http://www.london.edu/dubailondon.html">www.london.edu/dubailondon.html</a>	DIFC
Manipal University	<a href="http://www.manipal.edu">www.manipal.edu</a>	DIAC
Manchester Business School	<a href="http://www.mbs-worldwide.ac.uk">www.mbs-worldwide.ac.uk</a>	DKV
Michigan State University Dubai	<a href="http://www.dubai.msu.edu">www.dubai.msu.edu</a>	DIAC
Middlesex University	<a href="http://www.mdx.ac">www.mdx.ac</a>	DKV
Murdoch University	<a href="http://www.murdochdubai.com">www.murdochdubai.com</a>	DIAC
National Institute for Vocational Education	<a href="http://www.nive.gov.ae">www.nive.gov.ae</a>	DIAC
Nicolas & Asp College of Postgraduate Dentistry	<a href="http://www.dubaipostgraduate.com">www.dubaipostgraduate.com</a>	DHCC

Institution	Website	Location
Rochester Institute of Technology Dubai	<a href="http://www.dubai.rit.edu">www.dubai.rit.edu</a>	Silicon Oasis
Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland	<a href="http://www.rcsidubai.com">www.rcsidubai.com</a>	DHCC
S.P. Jain Centre of Management	<a href="http://www.spjain.org">www.spjain.org</a>	DIAC
SAE Institute	<a href="http://www.sae-dubai.com">www.sae-dubai.com</a>	DKV
Saint Petersburg State University of Engineering and Economics (ENGECON)	<a href="http://www.rudubai.ru/en">www.rudubai.ru/en</a>	DKV
Shaheed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto Institute of Science and Technology (SZABIST)	<a href="http://www.szabist.ac.ae">www.szabist.ac.ae</a>	DIAC
University of Bradford in Dubai	<a href="http://www.brad.ac.uk">www.brad.ac.uk</a>	DKV
University of St. Josephs (USJ)	<a href="http://www.usj.edu.lb/dubai">www.usj.edu.lb/dubai</a>	DIAC
University of Wollongong in Dubai	<a href="http://www.uowdubai.ac.ae">www.uowdubai.ac.ae</a>	DKV