

Law No. (17) of 2024
Establishing the
Dubai National University¹

We, Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Ruler of Dubai,

After perusal of:

Federal Law by Decree No. (48) of 2021 Concerning Higher Education;

Law No. (5) of 1995 Establishing the Department of Finance;

Law No. (1) of 2016 Concerning the Financial Regulations of the Government of Dubai, its Implementing Bylaw, and their amendments;

Law No. (26) of 2023 Concerning the Executive Council of the Emirate of Dubai;

Decree No. (1) of 2019 Regulating the Establishment of Companies by Government Entities in the Emirate of Dubai;

Decree No. (1) of 2023 Concerning Governance of the Councils/ Boards and Committees Affiliated to the Government of Dubai; and

Executive Council Resolution No. (20) of 2022 Forming the Steering Committee for the Dubai National University Establishment Project,

Do hereby issue this Law.

Title of the Law
Article (1)

This Law will be cited as "Law No. (17) of 2024 Establishing the Dubai National University".

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¹Every effort has been made to produce an accurate and complete English version of this legislation. However, for the purpose of its interpretation and application, reference must be made to the original Arabic text. In case of conflict, the Arabic text will prevail.

Definitions

Article (2)

The following words and expressions, wherever mentioned in this Law, will have the meaning indicated opposite each of them unless the context implies otherwise:

Emirate:	The Emirate of Dubai.
Ruler:	His Highness the Ruler of Dubai.
Government:	The Government of Dubai.
Executive Council:	The Executive Council of the Emirate of Dubai.
DNU:	The Dubai National University.
Chancellor:	The chancellor of the DNU.
Board of Trustees:	The board of trustees of the DNU.
Chairman:	The chairman of the Board of Trustees.
President:	The president of the DNU.

Establishment of the DNU

Article (3)

Pursuant to this Law, a university named the "Dubai National University" is established as a public corporation. The DNU will have legal personality, financial and administrative autonomy in all its affairs, and the legal capacity required to undertake all acts and dispositions that ensure the achievement of its objectives.

Head Office of the DNU

Article (4)

The head office of the DNU will be located in the Emirate. Branches of the DNU may be established within and outside of the Emirate pursuant to a resolution of the Board of Trustees.

Scope and Nature of the DNU
Article (5)

- a. The DNU will be comprised of a number of faculties; scientific research centres; traditional and digital libraries; and specialised training institutes. The DNU will offer academic programmes leading to bachelor's, master's, and doctoral degrees in various academic fields, in addition to training programmes aligned with the Emirate's needs, with a view to developing the capabilities of community members, enhancing their competencies, and improving their skills.
- b. The DNU will be managed in accordance with the provisions of this Law and the relevant bylaws and resolutions approved by the Board of Trustees.

Objectives of the DNU
Article (6)

The DNU will have the following objectives:

1. to support development, advancement, and scientific research efforts in the Emirate through distinguished educational programmes and scientific research at the local, regional, and international levels; graduate qualified cadres; and provide learning, research, and development opportunities for students pursuing higher academic degrees;
2. to enhance the Higher Education system by delivering high-quality outcomes that align with the standards of leading educational institutions, while meeting the Emirate's aspirations to attract and cultivate expertise, skills, and highly competent professionals;
3. to strengthen the competitiveness of the Higher Education sector and position it among the world's leading educational systems;
4. to attract students and exceptional minds, and supply the labour market with highly qualified and competent professionals capable of advancing, and meeting the requirements of, the Emirate's strategic sectors; and
5. to actively contribute to the Emirate's overall growth and development.

Functions of the DNU
Article (7)

For the purpose of achieving its objectives, the DNU will have the duties and powers to:

1. develop the strategic plans required to ensure the availability of the capabilities required to achieve the DNU's goals and aspirations;
2. establish specialised faculties, institutes, and research centres;
3. develop and implement high-quality educational programmes that meet quality standards at the local, regional, or international levels;
4. advance scientific research in accordance with latest best practices adopted by leading international universities, faculties, and research centres, with a view to enhancing the Emirate's role in the field of scientific research and innovation;
5. collaborate with various universities, faculties, scientific research centres, and other academic institutions; and conclude the relevant necessary agreements and contracts;
6. train and qualify UAE national cadres in all fields through academic programmes, advanced training programmes, or other means;
7. adopt the necessary admission and enrolment standards and requirements for students at the DNU, including behavioural regulations applicable to them;
8. determine tuition fees and fees for other services provided by the DNU;
9. develop the policies and procedures for the operation and management of the DNU and its academic programmes, and establish rules for awarding scholarships;
10. coordinate with the competent entities at the local and federal levels in respect of the required academic accreditation;
11. award academic degrees to faculty members and researchers in accordance with the rules and standards approved by the Board of Trustees;
12. award certificates and academic degrees to students who successfully complete accredited academic programmes;
13. confer honorary degrees and accredited academic distinctions upon natural and legal persons in accordance with the rules and standards approved by the Board of Trustees;
14. establish and grant fellowships, scientific and academic scholarships, and awards in various academic disciplines and scientific research;
15. provide the necessary tools for conducting research and development activities, and offering consultancy services to local and federal government entities, private sector companies and institutions, and the non-profit sector;

16. offer continuing education opportunities in all academic and training fields, with a view to enhancing professional development in line with societal needs;
17. encourage scientific/ academic research, with a focus on the applied research aligned with the Emirate's development plans; and publish the same at the local, regional, and international levels;
18. publish research papers, academic works, and other publications of the DNU, or engage any other party for this purpose;
19. hold academic and training seminars, exhibitions, and conferences; and engage all segments of the community in the various activities of the DNU;
20. acquire, possess, sell, lease out, or take lease of the movable and immovable property, materials, devices, equipment, and systems required for the achievement of its objectives and the performance of its duties;
21. provide the Government with any requested information, including information related to the DNU's financial affairs, activities, and operations; and
22. exercise any other duties or powers required for the achievement of the DNU's objectives, as assigned to it by the Ruler or the Chairman of the Executive Council.

Organisational Structure of the DNU Article (8)

The organisational structure of the DNU will be comprised of the following organisational levels:

1. the Chancellor;
2. the Board of Trustees; and
3. the executive body.

Chancellor of the DNU Article (9)

A Chancellor and a Deputy Chancellor will be appointed to the DNU pursuant to a decree of the Ruler.

Board of Trustees
Article (10)

- a. The DNU will have a Board of Trustees comprised of a Chairman and a number of other experienced and specialised Members. The number of the Board of Trustees Members may neither be less than seven (7) nor more than nine (9), including the Chairman. Members of the Board of Trustees will be appointed pursuant to a decree issued by the Ruler upon the recommendations of the Chancellor.
- b. A vice chairman will be appointed at the first meeting of the Board of Trustees to act as the Chairman where the Chairman is absent or his post falls vacant for any reason whatsoever.
- c. The provisions of the above-mentioned Decree No. (1) of 2023 and the resolutions issued in pursuance thereof will apply to all matters relating to the governance and regulation of the work of the Board of Trustees, and the duties of its Chairman and Members.

Functions of the Board of Trustees
Article (11)

- a. The Board of Trustees will undertake general supervision of the management of the DNU and administration of its affairs. For the purpose of achieving the DNU's objectives, the Board of Trustees will have the duties and powers to:
 1. approve and follow up the implementation of the general policy and strategic plan of the DNU;
 2. approve academic disciplines, curricula, and educational and training programmes and courses; and determine their duration;
 3. approve education quality standards and criteria, and implement the highest levels at the DNU;
 4. accredit the educational and training programmes and curricula of the DNU; and approve the establishment of specialised faculties, institutes, and centres;
 5. supervise the academic affairs of the DNU, including the development of Higher Education systems and other relevant matters;
 6. approve admission policies, academic and training regulations, examination systems, and graduation requirements;

7. form advisory Committees for academic and training disciplines and curricula;
8. approve proposals for aligning the DNU's strategy with labour market demand;
9. review periodic performance reports of the DNU and the indicators relating to the achievement of the strategic objectives and the aspirations of the Emirate;
10. ratify the academic agreements concluded by the DNU within or outside of the Emirate, subject to the approved budget and relevant applicable legislation;
11. establish an investment fund to support the achievement of the DNU's objectives and goals in coordination with the concerned entities;
12. examine and evaluate the status of Government universities and faculties, and submit the relevant recommendations to the Chancellor to make the relevant appropriate decisions, in accordance with the legislation in force in the Emirate;
13. approve the tuition fees and service charges at the DNU;
14. approve the rules for granting scholarships to the students enrolled at the DNU;
15. approve the criteria and rules for awarding academic ranks to faculty members and researchers;
16. borrow funds in accordance with the legislation in force in the Emirate;
17. establish companies or hold shares in existing companies and investment projects, as required for the achievement of the DNU's objectives, in accordance with the legislation in force in the Emirate;
18. approve proposals for entering into partnerships that align with the functions of the DNU and its strategic objectives;
19. approve the organisational structure of the DNU;
20. approve the annual budget and Financial Statements of the DNU, in coordination with the Department of Finance;
21. ensure the efficient and effective use of the DNU's resources to maximise their potential in achieving the DNU's objectives;
22. approve the bylaws and regulations governing the DNU's financial, technical, and administrative work, and human resources;

23. approve the rules and regulations governing the investment of the DNU's property in areas that align with its objectives and powers;
 24. appoint the auditors of the DNU and determine their remuneration at the beginning of each Financial Year, and approve their reports;
 25. issue the Terms of Reference and operational framework of the Board of Trustees in accordance with the provisions of the above-mentioned Decree No. (1) of 2023 and the resolutions issued in pursuance thereof;
 26. form Committees and work teams as required to assist the Board of Trustees in performing its duties;
 27. seek assistance from experts and specialists as it deems appropriate, provided that they do not have a vote in its deliberations; and
 28. exercise any other duties or powers related to the achievement of the objectives of the DNU, as assigned to the Board of Trustees by the Ruler, the Chancellor, or the Deputy Chancellor.
- b. The Board of Trustees may delegate any of its powers under sub-paragraphs (a)(2), (a)(3), (a)(4), (a)(5), (a)(6), (a)(7), (a)(8), (a)(10), (a)(21), and (a)(22) of this Article to any of its Members or those of the Committees it forms, or to the President, provided that such delegation is specific and in writing.

Advisory Committee of the Board of Trustees Article (12)

The Board of Trustees will have an Advisory Committee comprised of experts and specialists. This Advisory Committee will provide the required support to the Board of Trustees to enable it to exercise its duties and powers under this Law, the resolutions issued in pursuance hereof, and other legislation in force in the Emirate. The Advisory Committee will be formed pursuant to a resolution issued by the Chancellor, which must determine the duties, functions, and Terms of Reference of the Advisory Committee, and any other relevant matters.

Executive Body of the DNU Article (13)

- a. The executive body of the DNU will comprise the President, faculty deans, faculty members, and administrative, finance, and technical staff.

- b. The executive body will be responsible for performing the operational work of the DNU, and providing administrative and technical support to the DNU and the Board of Trustees.
- c. The employees of the executive body of the DNU, including its faculty members, will be governed by the human resources regulation approved by the Board of Trustees for this purpose.

President of the DNU
Article (14)

- a. The DNU will have a President and one or more vice presidents, who will be appointed, and whose employment rights and remuneration will be determined, pursuant to a resolution of the Board of Trustees.
- b. The President will manage the day-to-day operations of the DNU, and will in particular have the duties and powers to:
 - 1. propose the plans required for implementing the general policy and strategic plans of the DNU, and submit the same to the Board of Trustees for approval;
 - 2. develop the academic and administrative programmes and plans that contribute to the achievement of the objectives of the DNU, and submit the same to the Board of Trustees for approval;
 - 3. propose the tuition fees and service charges at the DNU, and submit the same to the Board of Trustees for approval;
 - 4. propose the rules for granting the scholarships to the students enrolled at the DNU, and submit the same to the Board of Trustees for approval;
 - 5. prepare proposals for entering into partnerships that align with the functions of the DNU, and submit the same to the Board of Trustees for approval;
 - 6. prepare proposals for aligning the DNU's strategy with the labour market demand, and submit the same to the Board of Trustees for approval;
 - 7. prepare the organisational structure, draft annual budget, and Financial Statements of the DNU; and submit the same to the Board of Trustees for approval;
 - 8. supervise the executive body of the DNU, as well as its activities and operations, and the services it provides;

9. propose academic and technical bylaws and policies, and submit the same to the Board of Trustees for approval;
 10. propose the resolutions, bylaws, and regulations governing the DNU's administrative, financial, and technical work and human resources; and submit the same to the Board of Trustees for approval;
 11. prepare periodic reports on the workflow of the DNU, and submit the same to the Board of Trustees to give the relevant directives as it deems appropriate;
 12. represent the DNU before third parties; and conclude contracts and agreements required for the achievement of its objectives and for enabling it to perform its functions, in accordance with the relevant powers granted to him by the Board of Trustees;
 13. manage the academic, financial, and administrative affairs of the DNU in accordance with the provisions of this Law, the resolutions issued in pursuance hereof, and other legislation in force in the Emirate;
 14. develop the annual action plan of the DNU, and submit the same to the Board of Trustees for approval;
 15. review the annual institutional performance of the DNU, and submit the relevant recommendations to the Board of Trustees to issue the directives as it deems appropriate in respect thereof;
 16. seek assistance from experts, specialists, and visiting lecturers, in accordance with the relevant bylaws adopted by the DNU; and
 17. exercise any other duties or powers related to the objectives and powers of the DNU, as assigned or delegated to him by the Board of Trustees.
- c. The President may delegate any of his powers under paragraph (b) of this Article to any of the vice presidents or to any of the DNU's employees, provided that such delegation is specific, in writing, and in accordance with the relevant chart of approval powers approved by the Board of Trustees.

Financial Resources of the DNU

Article (15)

- a. The financial resources of the DNU will consist of:
 1. the financial appropriations allocated to the DNU in the General Budget of the Government;

2. the movable and immovable property allocated to the DNU by the Government;
 3. tuition fees, training charges, and other charges for the services provided by the DNU;
 4. proceeds from the movable and immovable property of the DNU;
 5. proceeds from the activities and projects implemented by the DNU;
 6. proceeds from the investment fund established by the Board of Trustees;
 7. the gifts, grants, donations, and bequests provided to the DNU and accepted by the Board of Trustees; and
 8. any other resources approved by the Board of Trustees.
- b. The financial appropriations allocated to the DNU in accordance with the provisions of sub-paragraph (a)(1) of this Article will be governed by the provisions of the above-mentioned Law No. (1) of 2016 and its Implementing Bylaw, as well as any relevant arrangements that may be agreed upon with the Department of Finance.

Financial Year of the DNU
Article (16)

- a. In managing its accounts and records, the DNU will apply the rules and principles of accounting it adopts for this purpose.
- b. The Financial Year of the DNU will commence on 1 January and will end on 31 December of each Year, except that the first Financial Year will commence on the date on which this Law comes into force and will end on 31 December of the following Year.

Issuing Implementing Resolutions
Article (17)

Except for the resolutions which the Chancellor is exclusively authorised to issue under this Law, the Chairman will, subject to the approval of the Board of Trustees, issue the resolutions required for implementing the provisions of this Law.

**Repeals
Article (18)**

The above-mentioned Executive Council Resolution No. (20) of 2022 is hereby repealed. Any provision in any other legislation is also hereby repealed to the extent that it contradicts the provisions of this Law.

**Publication and Commencement
Article (19)**

This Law will be published in the Official Gazette and will come into force on the day on which it is published.

**Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum
Ruler of Dubai**

Issued in Dubai on 4 September 2024
Corresponding to 1 Rabi al-Awwal 1446 A.H.