



POSITION PROFILE

Project Director – School of Medicine

November 2025

THE OPPORTUNITY

The American University in Dubai (AUD) is undertaking one of the most ambitious and consequential initiatives in its 30-year history:

the establishment of a world-class School of Medicine that will transform the health education landscape in the UAE and the broader Gulf region. In strategic partnership with the Perelman School of Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania (Penn Medicine)—the birthplace of American medical education and a global leader in research and patient care—AUD aims to build a medical school that sets new regional benchmarks for academic excellence, innovation, and community impact.

At the outset of this bold endeavor is the search for a Project Director – School of Medicine, a founding academic and administrative leader who will play a pivotal role in bringing this vision to life. This position offers a once-in-a-generation opportunity to shape a new medical institution from the ground up, supported by a dynamic university, a committed government, and one of the most prestigious medical schools in the world.

A VISION FOR IMPACT

The AUD School of Medicine will respond directly to the urgent healthcare needs of the region. Dubai alone is projected to face a shortage of 6,000 physicians by 2030. The UAE is committed to becoming a global healthcare destination and has made excellence in health sciences education a national priority. AUD's new School of Medicine is designed to help fill this gap—not only by producing technically skilled physicians, but by graduating leaders capable of shaping healthcare policy, advancing research, and improving patient outcomes across diverse and multicultural populations.



DESIGNED FOR THE FUTURE

From its inception, the AUD School of Medicine has been conceived not as a replication of existing models, but as a reimagining of what a 21st-century medical school can be. The program will be rooted in the American graduate education model, fully aligned with international and UAE accreditation standards. The curriculum will be localized to address regional public health challenges, with an emphasis on community engagement and chronic disease management.

STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP

AUD's collaboration with **Penn Medicine—ranked #3** among the United States research intensive medical schools—provides unparalleled credibility, insight, and support. As detailed in the Memorandum of Understanding between the two institutions, Penn Medicine is working closely with AUD through each phase of development: strategic alignment, detailed planning, curriculum design, faculty development, and operational launch. Penn Medicine is also contributing to public communications, stakeholder engagement, and long-term evaluation of outcomes. The partnership ensures that the AUD School of Medicine will not only meet—but exceed—international expectations for excellence.



A UNIQUE INSTITUTIONAL HOME

The School of Medicine will be the seventh academic school at AUD, joining a campus known for student-centered learning, international partnerships, and a deep commitment to societal advancement. AUD's central location in Dubai—a global hub of innovation, healthcare, and cultural exchange—makes it ideally suited to attract top faculty, build clinical partnerships, and foster cutting-edge research. The university's strong biology program and its track record of launching high-impact initiatives in collaboration with institutions like Georgia Tech and USC provide a strong foundation for success.

This is an opportunity to shape not only a new medical school, but also the next generation of healthcare leadership in the region—and to do so in partnership with one of the world's most respected institutions.



ABOUT THE AMERICAN UNIVERSITY IN DUBAI

The American University in Dubai (AUD) is a private, academically and culturally inclusive institution of higher learning, providing a globally recognized American education. When it was established in 1995, AUD became the first American university in the entire Gulf region. It is accredited in the United States by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges and in the United Arab Emirates by the Ministry of Education's Commission for Academic Accreditation. AUD's 2,000+ students come from 100+ countries and are enrolled in one of its six schools: Architecture, Art, & Design; Arts & Sciences; Business; Education; Engineering; and the Mohammed bin Rashid School of Communication. The School of Medicine will be the university's seventh.

ABOUT THE PERELMAN SCHOOL OF MEDICINE AT THE UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA

The Perelman School of Medicine (Penn Medicine) is a global leader in medical education, research, and patient care. Penn Medicine embodies the visionary ideals of the University's founder, Benjamin Franklin, emphasizing the integration of theory and practice for the betterment of humanity. As the birthplace of American medicine, Penn's legacy includes the establishment of the nation's first hospital (Pennsylvania Hospital, 1751), first medical school (1765), first university hospital (Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania, 1874), and first integrated academic health system (Penn Medicine, 1993). Guided by its rich history and a forward-thinking vision, Penn Medicine continues to pioneer innovations that redefine medical practice and ensure equitable access to care for all.

THE POSITION

The Project Director – School of Medicine at the American University in Dubai School of Medicine will serve as the senior academic and strategic leader responsible for developing the vision, structure, and success of the university's new medical program. This is a highly collaborative and mission-driven role, requiring a leader who is as comfortable engaging with local clinicians and government stakeholders as they are leading curriculum design, faculty recruitment, and cross-border academic planning. The Director will serve as the primary liaison between AUD and Penn Medicine and will be responsible for cultivating strong relationships with affiliated hospitals, policymakers, and community partners to ensure a holistic and community-centered approach to medical education.

The full-time role is crafted around the needs of an established scope of work set by AUD and Penn Medicine. Reporting directly to the Associate Executive Vice President and working in close coordination with other senior leaders at AUD and the leadership team at Penn Medicine, the Director will guide the development of a U.S.-style Doctor of Medicine (MD) program that meets both American and UAE accreditation standards.



KEY RESPONSIBILITIES

Primary Liaison to PennMed

Act as the principal point of contact between AUD and PennMed, overseeing and facilitating collaboration across all aspects of the partnership—from curriculum design to faculty development and program evaluation.

Partnership and Stakeholder Engagement

Build and sustain collaborative relationships with PennMed, affiliated teaching hospitals, government agencies, healthcare providers, and international accreditation bodies to ensure alignment, trust, and long-term success.

Strategic Planning and Vision Execution

Lead the development and execution of the School of Medicine's mission, vision, and strategic plan, ensuring they align with both AUD's institutional goals and the broader healthcare priorities of the UAE and Gulf region.

Program Development and Resource Management

Oversee the development and implementation of academic programming, budgeting, staffing plans, and resource allocation strategies to ensure operational excellence and long-term sustainability.

Curricular Innovation and Accreditation Alignment

Ensure that the medical curriculum adheres to the 4+4 American model of medical education and meets the highest international accreditation standards. Align academic and operational planning with the UAE Ministry of Education and other relevant regulatory bodies.

Clinical Academic Leadership

Provide academic oversight across all components of the medical program, ensuring excellence in clinical education, research, student mentorship, and community service. Promote integration of cutting-edge technologies including AI, VR, robotics, and telemedicine.

Faculty Recruitment and Development

Lead efforts to attract, recruit, and support a world-class faculty, including both clinical and non-clinical educators. Build a culture of academic excellence, mentorship, and student-centeredness.

Alignment with National Health Strategy

Ensure that the School of Medicine's objectives and impact align with the UAE's national vision for healthcare, including workforce development, innovation in medical education, and health equity.

THE CANDIDATE

AUD seeks a distinguished and entrepreneurial leader with deep experience in academic medicine and medical education program development. The ideal candidate will bring a combination of scholarly achievement, strategic foresight, operational capability, and a collaborative spirit.

REQUIRED QUALIFICATIONS

- **MD, MBBS, or MBChB** degree.
- **Post-graduate** professional qualification (e.g., Fellowship of a Royal College, U.S. Board Certification, etc.).
- **Doctorate** from a recognized research-intensive university (preferably U.S.-based).
- Appointment as **Associate** or **Full Professor** in an academic medical setting.
- At least five years in **senior leadership roles**, with proven experience in **strategic planning and budgeting**.
- Comprehensive understanding of the **U.S. 4+4 medical education model**.
- Demonstrated success in **faculty recruitment and mentorship**.
- Familiarity with **international accreditation processes**.

PREFERRED QUALIFICATIONS

- Experience with **UAE healthcare systems** and accreditation frameworks.
- Successful experience launching a **U.S.-style MD program**.
- **Arabic language** proficiency.
- Demonstrated commitment to **innovation, student-centered teaching, and interdisciplinary collaboration**.



THE PROCESS

Applications will be accepted and evaluated on a rolling basis until the position is filled, with immediate consideration given to those received early. Preference will be given to candidates currently based in the UAE.

Interested applicants must submit the following required documents via email to recruitment@aud.edu.

Please state the title of the position—**Project Director – School of Medicine**—in the subject line of the email:

- A cover letter outlining interest and relevant qualifications
- An updated curriculum vitae (CV)
- Contact information for three (3) academic or professional references



No telephone inquiries, please.

While we thank all applicants for their interest, only those selected for further consideration will be contacted for an interview.