



استثمر في الشارقة  
invest in Sharjah

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# HEALTH & WELLBEING

GUIDING YOUR SUCCESS





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## Sharjah FDI Office (Invest in Sharjah)

Sharjah FDI Office (Invest in Sharjah) is Sharjah's investment promotion agency and a strategic partner for global investors looking to grow their business in the emirate.

As Sharjah investment promotion agency, we are committed to guiding foreign investors to the tremendous opportunity and potential Sharjah offers. Our vision is to inspire businesses by building on the strong foundations of Sharjah's sustainable growth and economic diversification.

## We offer Investors:



Expert market knowledge and intelligence



Access to investment opportunities across a range of sectors and industries



Bespoke advice and step-by-step guidance



Aftercare services

Invest in Sharjah facilitates the investment process by fostering close collaboration between the public and private sector. By bringing investors and opportunities together, we fuel growth and prosperity, and we streamline an end-to-end solution to investing in the emirate.



We are a passionate and ambitious team dedicated to opening doors and guiding your success. We are here and ready to support you to achieve your plans and ambitions in Sharjah and realise your investments in the emirate.

# A Haven for Tranquility and Wellness



Robust research centres, world-class facilities and global access present abundant opportunities to grow Sharjah's health and wellness sector.

Sharjah is uniquely placed to become a leading healthcare capital in the Middle East thanks to its world-class infrastructure, robust network of university hospitals and private clinics, as well as extremely low barriers to entry for healthcare providers. The emirate offers abundant opportunities for the development of medical and wellness products and services across the healthcare value chain.



Support for the development of the healthcare sector stems from Sharjah's Ruler, H.H. Dr. Sheikh Sultan Bin Mohammed Al Qassimi, who has expressed his desire to transform and enhance the regional healthcare service industry and establish Sharjah as the most sought-after destination for healthcare services, medical education, and research and development.

The emirate's government has been proactive in developing an incredibly welcoming environment for healthcare and wellness investment.

The health industry is expected to grow considerably in tandem with the growth in Sharjah's population, which is expected to reach 2.7 million by 2025, up from 1.7 million currently. Sharjah is well-placed to serve as the medical hub for the northern emirates, where there is an acute need for more healthcare facilities.



**Sharjah was selected as the 1st Healthy City in the region by the World Health Organization (WHO)**

A rising population combined with an aging demographic pattern has added pressures to existing healthcare services. Additionally, a steady rise in GDP per capita and the alarming rise among the population of lifestyle diseases such as diabetes and cardiovascular diseases are factors fuelling greater demand for specialised healthcare services.

As the United Arab Emirates seeks to implement a **National Policy on Vaccinations** and a **National Strategy for Wellbeing**, Sharjah will play a fundamental role in promoting the overall health of the UAE's population.

## Sharjah Healthcare City

Sharjah Healthcare City (SHCC) is a dedicated healthcare and wellness city home to dozens of hospitals and clinics. It operates as a free zone, which means investors pay zero taxes and no duties. Healthcare City offers 100% repatriability, single-window service, and hassle-free licensing among a host of other benefits.

“The future of healthcare lies in developing preventive technology. The field offers great opportunities for investors and innovators, and Sharjah Healthcare City welcomes R&D centres, laboratories, hospitals and rehabilitation centres to set up and grow in the right environment.”

**Dr Abdul Aziz Al Muhairi,**  
Director of the Sharjah Health Authority



Located in close proximity to Sharjah International Airport on a purpose-built **2.5m squared site**, Sharjah Healthcare City offers investors plots of land for construction of hospitals, clinics and offices and other healthcare buildings are available for long-term leases.

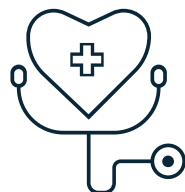
At the new clinical building, state-of-the-art clinical suites are ready to occupy, and there are ready-to-occupy offices for healthcare entrepreneurs. Sharjah Healthcare City works closely with investors to take care of all their licensing needs, from commercial registration, to company formation, to emigration services.



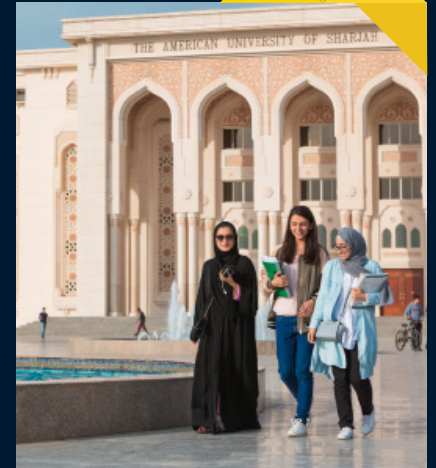


## INNOVATION AND EXPERTISE AT YOUR DOORSTEP - UNIVERSITY OF SHARJAH

The internationally - recognised University of Sharjah offers courses in Medicine, Pharmacy, Dentistry, Physiotherapy and Life Sciences and is at the centre of the latest medical research, innovations and breakthroughs.



The courses offered at the University explore the latest trends at the intersection of technology and healthcare, like the use of bioinformatics, simulation modeling, and AI. These tools are being used together through integrated systems to understand individual patients, populations, and social factors to ultimately improve patient outcomes through a deeper and holistic understanding of behaviour, disease, and biology.



Graduates from the University of Sharjah are well-equipped to meet the needs of the healthcare sector. For investors, Sharjah offers a highly competitive local talent pool, who are embedded in the future of medicine in the GCC and globally.

## COMPULSORY HEALTH INSURANCE IN SHARJAH



Since 2020, the government has provided health insurance to UAE citizens living in Sharjah. Meanwhile, health insurance is not mandatory for expats at the moment, but is often included as part of an employees' remuneration package. This creates opportunities for entrepreneurs and investors focused on workplace wellbeing and preventative healthcare.

## A Dynamic Ecosystem

In Sharjah, there are strong partnerships between academia and industry. The University Hospital Sharjah (UHS) is adjacent to the University of Sharjah. Its vision is to see UHS as one of the pioneering Specialty Healthcare Providers in the UAE and eventually in the entire region. There, university graduates gain practical experience.



**2,000**  
PhD holders



**18 Educational**  
Institutions



**47,000**  
Students



Sharjah University City is home to major universities and research institutions with world-class specialised labs and research facilities. Sharjah University City is one of the largest university campuses in the world with more than 47,000 students, 18 educational institutions, and 2,000 PhD holders.

Home to more than 54,000 small and medium-sized businesses, Sharjah is a welcoming hub that consistently promotes innovation and entrepreneurship. The emirate benefits from broad government support, a wide variety of public and private sector partnerships, and is a recognised member of the World Health Organisation's Healthy Cities programme.

# Investment Opportunities



## PHARMACEUTICALS AND MEDICAL EQUIPMENT

Demand for pharmaceuticals, medical equipment and PPE is forecast to rise in tandem with the growth of the regional population. The GCC market for pharmaceuticals was worth approximately Dh14bn (\$3.8bn) in 2020 and is set to grow to Dh17bn (\$4.7bn) by 2024.

**Dh14bn (\$3.8bn)  
in 2020**



**Dh17bn (\$4.7bn)  
by 2024**

## MEDICAL AND WELLNESS TOURISM



The UAE was ranked top in the GCC as the best medical tourism destination by the US-based Medical Tourism Association. With 12 million passengers arriving into Sharjah Airport each year, and Dubai International Airport just a short drive away, Sharjah's extensive private clinics offer ample opportunities for medical and wellness tourism.

For investors, there is an opportunity to capitalise on global demand for personalised healthcare services and leverage Sharjah's unique location as a leading regional hub for medical and wellness tourism.

Sharjah benefits from the UAE's wider fast-track system for the registration of innovative drugs, allowing patients across the country and the wider GCC seeking treatment to gain faster access to innovator drugs.



Sharjah is expected to be at the forefront of this growth, leveraging its manufacturing strength as a regional producer of drugs and tailored medical products for the region.





## SPECIALISED HEALTHCARE

As the population of the GCC rises, the need for specialised healthcare - especially for non-communicable diseases like diabetes and cancer - has increased. Demand for care homes for the elderly and rehabilitation centres for those with mental health diagnoses is also on the rise.

## Success Stories

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### NABTAHEALTH

NabtaHealth is the first MENA healthcare company to combine the use of digital technologies with traditional healthcare. The company uses technology including apps to help women manage their fertility, menstrual health and gynaecological concerns.

The company has also worked on testing a novel stabilising method for blood, plasma, RNA and DNA at high temperatures for the study of COVID-19. Nabta was named by CNBC as one of the top 100 startups in the world to watch in 2019.

### VIRTUE R&D

VirtuE R&D, a world-class Spanish company based in The Sharjah Research, Technology, and Innovation Park, specialises in the development of AI applications for psychology and mental health. Using deep learning processes, the company aims to map the human limbic system through a game-based, wholly digitised therapy system.

The goal is to replicate the benefits provided by a human therapist, but at a fraction of the cost. The company recently signed a four-year investment partnership with the UAE-based Mohamed Hilal Group.

### HIMCHAN JOINT & SPINE CENTER

As part of an ongoing bilateral partnership between the UAE and Korea, the Himchan Joint & Spine Center at the University Hospital Sharjah (UHS) opened in 2018 to offer advanced care for spine, neck, joints and bones. In the past, thousands of Emiratis flew to Korea for specialised orthopedic surgery that is now available in Sharjah.

**We Lead Your Business  
To Success**

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