



AL BASMA BRITISH SCHOOL



ABBS Career Guidance Booklet

2025/2026



Introduction

In alignment with ADEK Career and University Guidance Policy (v1.1, April 2025) and updated Gatsby Benchmarks 2024/25



Al Basma British School (ABBS) is committed to guiding every student towards a fulfilling future by helping them explore their interests, develop their skills, and make informed decisions about their educational and career paths. Our Career and University Guidance Programme aligns with the Abu Dhabi Department of Education and Knowledge (ADEK) framework, promoting career readiness, self-awareness, and informed transitions into postsecondary education and work life.



Purpose of the Programme

- Support students in understanding their strengths, interests, and aspirations.
- Equip students and parents with accurate, up-to-date information on career and university pathways.
- Provide structured career exploration, mentoring, and decision-making support from early years through sixth form.
- Foster engagement with universities, employers, and alumni networks.
- Ensure equitable access to guidance for all students, including those with additional learning needs.



Framework and Approach

The ABBS Career Guidance Programme follows ADEK's Five-Step Development Model:

Assessment

Identify students' interests, strengths, and career aspirations using the Future Skills Survey and Unifrog to guide personalised counselling and enrichment activities

Exploration

Introduce students to a wide range of professions and industries through career days, field trips, and guest speakers

Preparation

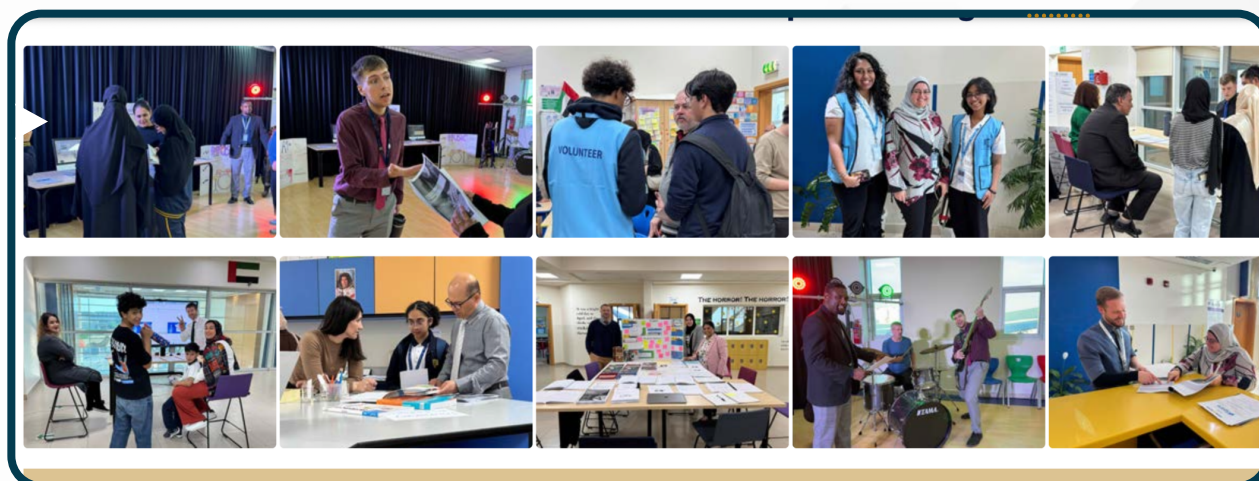
Help students align their subject choices (iGCSEs, A Levels) with their career goals

Implementation

Support students in applications for universities, internships, and volunteering

Decision-Making

Empower students to make confident, informed career and university choices



Career Guidance by Key Stage

Career guidance at ABBS begins early and continues progressively across all stages:

- Early Years & Key Stage 2: Career awareness through 'When I Grow Up' Day and 'Careers Day'.
- Key Stage 3: Students start using Unifrog for career exploration and complete interest and personality quizzes. Parents are invited to an Options Night, where teachers and counsellors guide families in selecting GCSE subjects aligned with future university and career goals.
- Key Stage 4: Guidance on iGCSE subject choices and workshops on SMART goal setting, volunteering, and internships. Parents are invited to an Options Night, where teachers and counsellors guide families in selecting A Level subjects aligned with future university and career goals.
- Key Stage 5: University readiness, applications, internships, open days, and alumni networking. During Options Night, parents collaborate with teachers and counsellors to explore A Level subject choices that best support their child's future academic and career pathways.

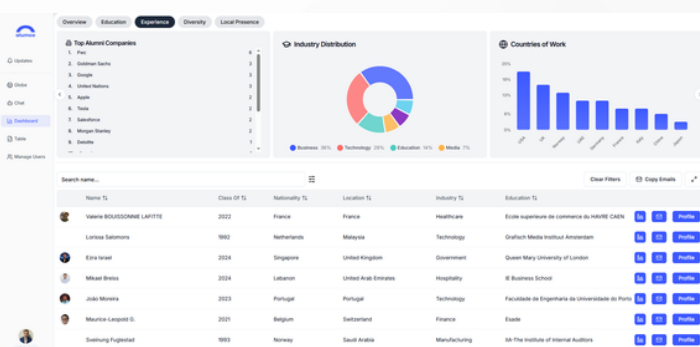
Students and parents also attend an annual University Fair, where local and international institutions present programs, scholarships, and admission pathways.



Tools and Resources



Tool	Description
Unifrog Platform	Psychometric testing, career matching, and university application tracking
Alumco Platform	Alumni networking and mentorship
Options Booklets (KS4 & KS5)	Guide subject and pathway selection
Counsellor Support	Qualified guidance team: Amal Diab and Guy Schooley
Parent Engagement Sessions	Involve parents in student decisions
University Fair	Annual event hosted at ABBS connecting students with local and international university representatives
Options Night for Parents	Annual session designed to help families understand subject pathways, university implications, and career choices
Future Skills Survey	Conducted annually to capture students' career interests, desired professions, and skill development needs. Results guide counsellors in personalising guidance sessions and planning relevant school events





Volunteering and Experiential Learning

ABBS provides volunteering opportunities through partnerships with community organisations such as the Red Crescent, Gulf Multi Sports, IDP Education, and local outreach programs. These experiences build empathy, teamwork, and leadership skills.

Volunteering Events / Opportunities:

- Meet the Teacher Days
- IDP University Study Abroad Expo
- Pink Day - Breast Cancer Awareness
- Lemonade Sale - Fundraising
- KS4 Fundraiser
- Al Basma Festival
- UAE Flag Day
- Robotics Exhibition
- UAE National Day
- Peter Pan Pantomime
- Options Evening
- Hag Al Laila
- Bake Sale
- Primary Readers
- Primary Play
- Gulf Multi Sports



Internship Opportunities:

- Rize UPCG University Preparation Workshop at NYUAD
- Bon Discovery League
- Sciences at Khalifa University
- The Abu Dhabi School of Management
- Global Hospitality Management at Les Roches Hospitality Academy
- DIDI Project Design Space
- Harvard Student Agencies (HSA) Future Doctors Program - Learn with Leaders
- Pathways to Medicine & Dentistry Program at Nabta Health Clinic - DecidEd
- INJAZ
- Financial Literacy
- Engineering Days - Heriot-Watt University Dubai



Alumni Network

- The Alumco Platform allows ABBS graduates to stay connected with the school community, share experiences, and inspire current students. Alumni are invited to participate in mentoring sessions, school events, and graduation ceremonies.
- The platform enables students to:
- Connect with graduates studying or working across the UAE and abroad.
- Seek mentorship in fields of interest such as medicine, engineering, business, and the arts.
- Access success stories that highlight the many pathways to higher education and employment.



Monitoring and Evaluation

Key indicators for success include:

- Tracking of students' destinations, including whether they have been accepted to their first 3 top choices
- Data collection of students engaged in internships or volunteering.
- Emirati students applying for scholarships.
- Feedback from students and parents on guidance quality.



Continuous Professional Development

ABBS career counsellors engage in continuous professional development through IACAC, Unifrog training, Learn with Leaders, ADU Principals' Meetings, MBZUAI Counsellors' weekends, Wollongong University in Dubai meetings, Khalifa University guidance (NAPO), and ADEK workshops. This ensures up-to-date knowledge of global university admission trends and best practices.

Contact Information

Career & University Guidance Team

- Amal Diab, Key Stage 5 Leader (ks5leader@albasmaschool.ae)
- Guy Schooley, Pastoral Vice Principal (vppastoral@albasmaschool.ae)

