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Award

## **Student Fee Payment Processing for The University of Birmingham Dubai Campus**

THE UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM

UK5: Transparency notice - Procurement Act 2023 - [view information about notice types](#)

Notice identifier: 2025/S 000-038951

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-055cef

Published 10 July 2025, 1:33pm

### **Scope**

### **Description**

The University of Birmingham intends to enter into a temporary contract with RAK Bank (United Arab Emirates) to provide an online student fee payment solution for its Dubai campus. This service will enable students to make tuition payments via card through RAK Bank's online payment platform, Skiplly.

The contract is expected to run for a period sufficient to cover the interim period until a full competitive tender process is completed and a new long-term provider is appointed. The estimated annual value of the contract is approximately £260,000, based on a conservative assumption that 75% of students will use this payment method.

This temporary arrangement will ensure continuity of service for students and the University's finance operations while the University prepares to go to market for a comprehensive online payment solution covering both UK and Dubai campuses. The full tender is anticipated to be issued later in 2025 or early 2026, with a new contract in place by July 2026.

## **Contract 1**

### **Supplier**

- National Bank of Ras Al Khaima P.S.C

### **Contract value**

- £260,000 excluding VAT
- £260,000 including VAT

Above the relevant threshold

### **Earliest date the contract will be signed**

25 July 2025

### **Contract dates (estimated)**

- 1 August 2025 to 31 July 2026
- 1 year

## **Main procurement category**

Services

## **CPV classifications**

- 66115000 - International payment transfer services

## **Contract locations**

- AE - United Arab Emirates

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## **Participation**

### **Particular suitability**

Small and medium-sized enterprises (SME)

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## **Other information**

### **Conflicts assessment prepared/revised**

Yes

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## Procedure

### Procedure type

Direct award

### Direct award justification

Switching to direct award

The University requires an immediate and reliable solution to support student fee payments for the upcoming academic year. Following a competitive market engagement within the UAE, and receiving presentations from 5 potential suppliers, RAK Bank's Skiplly platform has been identified as a suitable local payment solution that can be implemented on a 9 month interim basis, without delay, providing the University with an open link for student payments and allowing for the import and export of data detailing outstanding student fee balances and payments received without having to build integrations with our existing finance and student registration systems.

This is a short-term, transitional arrangement designed to bridge the gap until a full procurement process is completed. The University is committed to running a competitive tender for its global online payment pathways. The direct award to RAK Bank is therefore a pragmatic and proportionate response to an immediate operational need.

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## Supplier

### National Bank of Ras Al Khaima P.S.C

- Public Procurement Organisation Number: PMJC-6737-DZJJ

RAKBANK HQ, Sheikh Mohamed Bin Zayed Road, Exit 129

Ras Al Khaima

5300

United Arab Emirates

Email: [kumar.jaisingh@rakbank.ae](mailto:kumar.jaisingh@rakbank.ae)

Website: <https://rakbank.ae>

Small or medium-sized enterprise (SME): No

Voluntary, community or social enterprise (VCSE): No

Contract 1

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## **Contracting authority**

### **THE UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM**

- Companies House: RC000645
- Public Procurement Organisation Number: PHCQ-3464-LVTM

Edgbaston

Birmingham

B15 2TT

United Kingdom

Email: [procurement@bham.ac.uk](mailto:procurement@bham.ac.uk)

Website: <http://www.birmingham.ac.uk>

Region: UKG31 - Birmingham

Organisation type: Public authority - sub-central government