

# DIFC at a glance

Drive the future of finance with us




## #1 Global Financial Centre in MEASA


Dubai International Financial Centre (DIFC) is one of the world's most advanced financial centres, and the leading financial hub in the Middle East, Africa and South Asia (MEASA) region.


With a 20-year track record of driving the future of finance, DIFC creates value for companies by providing the best environment to accelerate growth.


## The region's broadest and deepest range of activities in a financial centre



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**DIFC Authority**  
Provides an independent legal framework, based on international standards of justice and English common law.
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**Dubai Financial Services Authority**  
Regulates all financial services activities.
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**DIFC Courts**  
Administers an independent English common law judiciary.
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**Free Zone**  
Benefits include 100% foreign ownership, no restriction on capital repatriation, tax advantages.

**DIFC provides  
the most stable  
and trusted platform  
for growth**

**MEASA's largest  
financial ecosystem**

**6,900+**  
Firms

**46,000+**  
Workforce

**1,200+**  
AI, FinTech and  
Innovation firms

**900+**  
DFSA regulated  
and supervised  
entities

## World class

**23** of the top 25 global banks

**5** of the top 10 interdealer brokers by volume

**8** of the top 10 global money managers

**27** of the top 29 global systemically important banks



## Our commitment to help you grow

- DIFC's platform is designed to help you grow faster than the market.
- We work with the industry and regulator to be a catalyst for innovation.
- We are a business offering a wide thanks to our range of licences, visa regimes and industry development initiatives.
- MEASA's largest financial services ecosystem and a magnet for global talent.
- Most progressive legal and regulatory framework – common law; leading data protection and IP regulations and pioneering digital asset regimes.

## A location like no other



**#1**  
in global cities in MEA  
and **#5** globally  
(2024 Global City Index)



**#1**  
for innovation  
in Arab world  
(HSE Global Cities Innovation Index 2024)



**250+**  
**connections**  
to global destinations  
across 100+ countries



**#3**  
for work globally  
(BCG's Decoding Global Talent 2024)



**#1**  
in digital governance  
in Arab world and  
**#5** globally  
(UN E-Government Survey 2024)

## Now is the time to join us

Select from a range of licence types to meet your business requirements.

- 1 Innovation and start-up licences.
- 2 Full licences ranging from:
  - Representative offices.
  - Market maker and provider of credit, brokerage, asset management, custody and money services.
  - Advising and arranging activities.
  - Full-fledged banking.
  - Holding/investment/managing offices.

### Licensing process

- 1 Submit letter of intent.  
[Click Here](#)
- 2 Process application and obtain in-principle approval.
- 3 Register your entity.

**Note:**

Specific Islamic Finance licences available • Licence requirements vary by sector, regulated and non-regulated business. Fees and capital requirements vary by licence category and sector.

