

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 close to 20-year track record, DIFC is 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



DIFC Authority

Provides an independent legal framework, based on international standards of justice and English common law.



Dubai Financial Services Authority

Regulates all financial services activities.



DIFC Courts

Administers an independent English common law judiciary.



Free Zone

Benefits including 100% foreign ownership, no restriction on capital repatriation, tax advantages.

DIFC provides the most stable and trusted platform for growth

Future focused

- A-grade, LEED awarded infrastructure, integrated with retail, residential and lifestyle options.
- DIFC Innovation hub provides region's most comprehensive innovation proposition.
- DIFC Academy and sector events develop human capital.
- Collaborative consultation between industry, regulator and law-making authority.
- Regional leaders in Governance (Hawkamah) and ESGs (Dubai Sustainable Finance Working Group).

MEASA's largest financial ecosystem

4,300+
Substantive firms

36,000+
Workforce

700+
FinTech and Innovation

600+
Financial regulated firms

World class

17 of the top 20 banks

5 of the top 10 Insurance companies

5 of the top 10 asset managers

25 of the top 30 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 enabler thanks to our range of licenses, visa regimes and industry development initiatives.
- MEASA's largest financial related ecosystem to do business with and a magnet for 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



~USD 400bn
gateway for trade



#1 for innovation
in Arab world
(Global Innovation Cities Index 2021)



150+ direct connections
to global destinations



#1
for living in MENA*
(Mercer 2019)



#2
for being stable, safe and secure in MENA*
(*Worldwide Governance Indicators 2021)

Now is the time to join us

We will help you select from a range of license types to meet your need

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

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 licenses available • License requirements vary by sector, regulated and non-regulated business Fees and capital requirements vary by license category and sector.

