

AI & Web 3.0 License

Be part of a dynamic community that
is shaping the future

Setup Guide

The future is here.



About the DIFC Innovation Hub – DIFC's largest start-up ecosystem

- **DIFC** is one of the world's **leading financial Center's**, connecting regional markets to the economies of the world.
- **DIFC** provides access to an established legal and regulatory framework, along with a wider ecosystem of technology enablers catering to **technology & innovation firms** interested in developing or testing new, novel or innovative products.
- **DIFC** is home to the most developed financial technology & innovation ecosystem in the region. With more than **700 tech start-ups** in the Centre, the **DIFC** is their preferred jurisdiction from which to scale their business in the MEASA region.
- You can find more information about DIFC by clicking [here](#).



**Attractive licensing for
Tech firms**

**Affordable Real Estate
Options**



**Access to Funding from
a cluster of VCs & others**

The Dubai AI & Web 3.0 Campus located in DIFC is the catalyst for the region

DIFC is building the world-class Campus spanning over 100,000 sq. ft. within the DIFC jurisdiction.

Dubai AI & Web 3.0 Campus' to attract over USD 300mn in collective funds, 500+ global AI and Web 3.0 start-ups, and create 3000+ jobs by 2028.

The Dubai AI & Web 3.0 Campus will provide world-class physical and digital infrastructure including R&D facilities, accelerator programs and collaborative workspaces, to attract, build and scale AI companies.



Our campus will be home to exceptional teams of visionary entrepreneurs, disruptors and engineers who possess a deep passion for emerging technologies.

The Dubai AI & Web 3.0 Campus is the DIFC Innovation Hub's latest new venture to be headquartered at DIFC's new "Innovation One" premises.



AI & Web 3.0 License

DIFC launched the **AI & Web 3.0 License** to provide AI developers and Web 3.0 entrepreneurs with enhanced flexibility, cost benefits, and opportunities for growth from the largest AI & Web 3.0 campus.

The **AI & Web 3.0 License** is a **90%** subsidized commercial license for AI & Web 3.0 firms who are looking to set up in the MENA region.

1. Subsidized Commercial Licensing at **USD 1,500** (annual fee) + **USD 100** one-time registration fee
2. Access to **co-working space** - flexible desk at **USD 3,000(+VAT)** per year
3. Up to **4 visas** on the first desk; **40% discounted** visa costs



**Over 10
activities to
select from**

**Quick
registration
process**

**Access to a
700+ start-up
ecosystem**

Detailed License Cost Structure

Commercial License Fee (USD) depends on # of FTEs (Full-time Employees)		
Year	License Fee	
1	1,500	
2	1,500	
	Less than or equal to 10 FTEs	More than 10 FTEs
3	1,500	12,000
4	1,500	
5	1,500	
6	4,000	
7	8,000	
8	12,000	

Additional Fees for incorporation			
	Fee (USD)	One time / Recurring	Frequency, if recurring
Registration Fee	100	One time	NA
Coworking Space Lease 1 flexi desk	3,000 (+VAT)	Recurring	First year only. Starting second year, fee is 5,500(+VAT)
Data Protection*	250	Recurring	USD 200 starting second year on
Confirmation Statement**	300	Recurring	Starts from the second year

*Prior to or immediately upon personal data processing.

**All DIFC companies are required to file a confirmation statement with the DIFC Registrar of Companies (ROC) at the time of license renewal, instead of filing an annual return. The confirmation statement will include a confirmation that all information (& any changes to such information) required to be notified to the DIFC ROC has been so notified.

Applicable Business Activities

Refer to the list of all **business activities*** you can select from under the **Dubai AI & Web 3.0 License**:

Activity Name	
Innovation & Artificial Intelligence Research & Consultancies	Distributed Ledger Technology Services
Software House	Network Consultancies
Technology Research & Development	Public Networking Services
Information Technology Consultants	Web-Design
Internet Consultancy	Cyber Security Consultancy
IT Infrastructure	Data Classification & Analysis
Portal	Education & Training Computer Software
Computer Consultancies	Education Technologies Research & Development
Internet Content Provider	Electronic Chips Programming

Click [here](#) to access the activities' description.

*Please note that you can select more than one activity under the Innovation License without any additional cost.

Innovation License Process

The full incorporation takes 3-4 weeks.

Stage 1: Submit for In-Principal Approval

Step 1

Fill out and **submit** your online **Initial Approval application** (which will be sent via email)

- **Please ensure to select option “Yes” for the Digital Passport Verification to speed up process.**

Step 2

Your application is **under review** for Initial Approval

Step 3

In-Principal **Approval** obtained

Stage 2: Register the legal entity

Step 1

Submit the relevant documents and make your **payments** (credit/debit card, bank transfer, cash)*

Step 2

Incorporation Complete. Receive all **corporate documents** automatically via email.

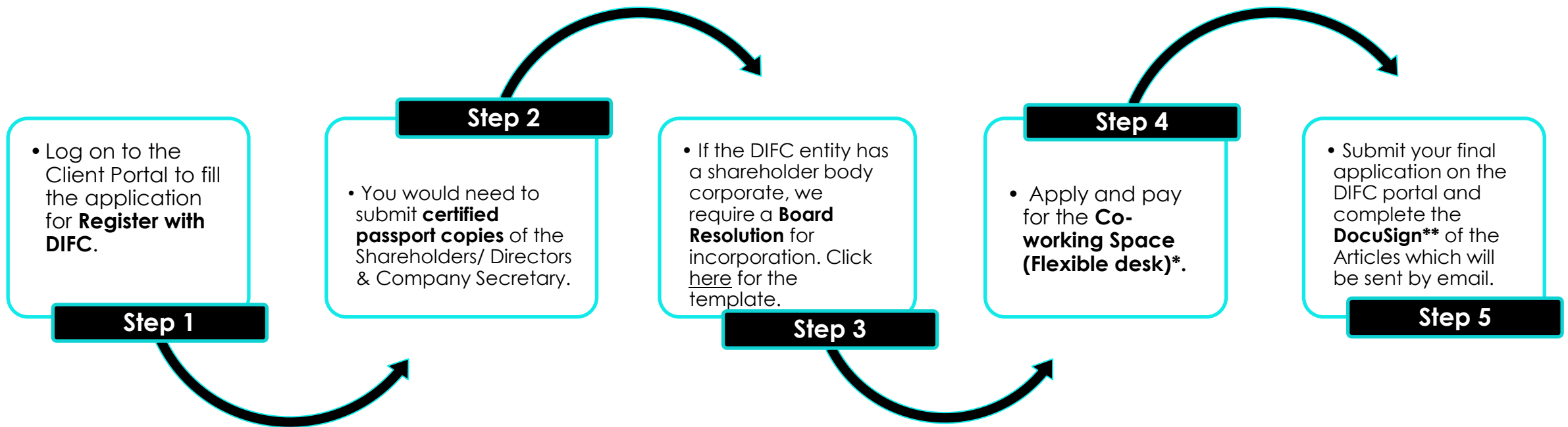
Step 3

Renew your license annually & lease (depending on your payment method)

*Including payment towards the real estate option of your choice

Registering your entity in the DIFC - Guideline

Once you receive the **In-Principle Approval**, you would now begin the **process of establishing your legal entity in the DIFC (Stage 2)**. Below are the **steps** to complete:



For any registry queries or issues, please contact the ROC Help desk: roc.helpdesk@difc.ae

*Please note the license will only be issued with an active lease.

**DocuSign will be sent via email to authorized signatory individuals & shareholders.

Visa (Costs + Application)

Visa Cost

The Required **PSA deposit** will be **AED 1000/visa** instead of **2500/visa**:

Description	Normal	Express
New Establishment Card	1,900	1,990
Renewal Establishment Card	1,950	2,010
New Employment Package(Outside)	2,950	3,900
New Employment Package(Inside)	4,300	5,850
Seconded Employee Package(Outside)	2,750	3,700
Seconded Employee Package (Inside)	4,100	5,650
Transfer Freezone/Govt. to DIFC	2,750	3,700
Transfer from a DIFC entity to another DIFC Entity	2,590	3,540

What should you submit?*

New Establishment card

- Valid DIFC commercial license
- Copy of the Certificate of Incorporation

New Employment Visa

- Clear colored passport photocopy, including the personal details page
- Applicant's photograph
- Copy of employment contract signed by both parties highlighting the job title of the applicant
- Copy of the highest educational certificate attested by UAE embassy in the country of certificate origin
- Applicant's National ID

Application process

Application is done directly on [DIFC Portal](#)

- Obtain your commercial license
- Apply on the DIFC Portal for an Establishment card & New Employment Visa
- Pay related fees online

For individuals not applying for DIFC Visa

Access Card – [Non-Sponsored](#)

Applicable to Equity Holders (shareholders, members/partners) or **long-term Visa holders that have an existing visa and do not want to transfer their visas to DIFC.** The card is valid for 1 year, 2 years or years, and can be renewed upon expiry.

Please click [here](#) for more information.

All visa related queries can be addressed to gs.helpdesk@difc.ae

Establishment Card & PSA

What is an Establishment Card?

It is a card issued by the General Directorate of Residency and Foreigners Affairs in Dubai to allow an entity to submit employment visa applications. **It is for the entity who requires visas under DIFC and will not be required for those who are not in need of any visa. You can apply for visas under DIFC ONCE THE ENTITY IS INCORPORATED.**

What is a Personal Sponsorship Deposit (PSA)?

PSA is an agreement that must be signed with DIFC Authority if the entity wishes to sponsor employees.

*Kindly note that the above listed requirements are the standard requirements for the visa application and Federal Authority for Identity and Citizenship reserves the right to ask for other supporting documents even after submission of the application.

Bank Account Information*

Checklist & Requirements	Bank Name		Bank Name	
<p>The checklist below represents the most needed documentation that will need to accompany your Bank account application form.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Ownership structure / organisation chart. (This is a critical component needed to identify the Ultimate Beneficial Owners (UBOs)) UBO documents; will require passport / Emirates ID, country of legal residence, Source of Wealth information Certificate of Incorporation / Articles of Association / Share Certificate Board/Shareholder/Partner Resolution for opening account, Signatories and Power of Attorney. Must include authorisation to Open, Operate and Close bank accounts. May require attestation at UAE Embassy and Ministry of Foreign Affairs Lease Agreement 	<p>Emirates NBD www.emiratesnbd.com</p>	<p>Sheikh Saad Ali Zaki M: +971 55 720 9688 sheikhaz@emiratesnbd.com</p>	<p>First Abu Dhabi Bank www.fgb.ae</p>	<p>Khurram Muzaffar M: +971 55 550 3016 Khurram.muzaffar@bankfab.com</p>
	<p>Mashreq Bank www.mashreqbank.com</p>	<p>Monojit Banerjee M: +971 50 365 8047 monojitben@mashreq.com</p>	<p>Commercial Bank of Dubai www.cbd.ae</p>	<p>Ahmad Soubra M: +971 56 409 5388 ahmad.soubra@cbd.ae</p> <p>Ruba Ayat ruba.ayat@cbd.ae</p>
	<p>RAK Bank www.rakbank.ae</p>	<p>Nikhil Varshney M: +971 50 375 9925 Soggie@rakbank.ae</p>	<p>Wio Bank https://wio.io/</p>	<p>Shinoj Narayana M: + 97150 259 2373 snarayanan@wio.io</p>
	<p>Dubai Islamic Bank www.dib.ae</p>	<p>Mohammed Shawar Khan T: +971 4 401 9550 M: +971 50 866 3637</p>	<p>Emirates Islamic www.emiratesislamic.ae</p>	<p>Khalid Mohamed Aljasmi T: +971 4 383 4596 M: +971 558 880800 KhalidMohd@emiratesislamic.ae</p>
	<p>Mauritius Commercial Bank (DIFC Representative) www.mcb.mu</p>	<p>Sebastian Graewert T: +971 4 401 9550 M: +971 50 866 3637 Sebastian.graewert@mcb.mu</p>	<p>National Bank of Fujairah https://nbf.ae/en</p>	<p>Gavin Kwas M: +97152 522 0674 gavin.kwas@nbf.ae</p>
	<p>Ajman Bank www.ajmanbank.ae</p>	<p>Ahmed Salah M: +971553858789 a.abdelmonem@ajmanbank.ae</p>		

*Please note as DIFC is just a Licensing Authority, we recommend the above list of banks for company bank account opening.

Useful Links

- [About the DIFC](#)
- [DIFC Innovation Hub](#)
- [DIFC Fintech Hive](#)
- [Dubai Future District Fund](#)
- [Co-Working Space](#)
- [DFSA Innovation Testing License](#)
- [DIFC Legal Database](#)
 - [DIFC Data Protection Law](#)
 - [Guidance – Data Protection](#)
 - [DIFC IP Law](#)
 - [DIFC Companies Law](#)
 - [DIFC Operating Law](#)
 - [DIFC Insolvency Law](#)
- [Visa](#)
- [DIFC Handbooks:](#)
 - [Corporate Actions: Client Handbook](#)
 - [Client Handbook: Insolvency of a DIFC Entity](#)
 - [Templates & Downloads](#)

Thank you