

A legacy for our future generations

AMERICAN INDUS UNIVERSITY

A Pakistani-American sponsored Institution in the US

SUMMARY

The American Indus University (“Indus”) will be established in North America, sponsored by Pakistani-Americans, as well as other Pakistanis living around the globe.

Indus would offer unique and interdisciplinary cutting edge academic programs in technology, health and business-related fields, including but not limited to Artificial Intelligence, Cybersecurity, Robotics, Next Generation Internet, Business Intelligence, Blockchain, and Digital Currency. Indus would be “lean and mean” and would make use of innovative teaching methodologies and cutting edge disruptive technologies to keep the cost of tuition down making it easily affordable and accessible to all irrespective of location. It would have a single fee structure for in-state and out-of-state students alike, which would be comparable to in-state tuition thus making it affordable to all. Indus will be located in a large metropolitan area having a strong cultural diversity.

Indus will have a think-tank “Indus Center” for the Pakistani-Americans. There are plans to build a Youth Development Center for school age children as well as a Daycare Center for Indus mothers. Continuing Professional Education and Skill Building courses will be a cornerstone of Indus academic programs for the local community.

BACKGROUND

United States (US) has the best higher education system in the world. Out of the 100 Top Universities of the World, 31 are in the US alone as per QS World University Rankings 2018. As a result, US is the preferred destination of most foreign students from around the world, including, but not limited to, South Asia, Middle East and the Far East. It is estimated that there are over one million foreign students studying in US universities, the top fields being business and engineering.

US has one of the most expensive higher education system in the world. Tuition fees for out-of-state and for foreign students varies from a minimum of \$ 27k to \$ 60k per year which is beyond the reach of most middle-class Americans as well as foreign students coming from the East. Not all are large universities. About 40% of college students are enrolled in places with fewer than 1,000 people. Some have fewer than 100 students.

There are an estimated 20 million Asian Americans, or 6% of the US population living in the United States. The number of Pakistani Americans alone in the US are estimated to be

around 900,000. There are over 18,000 physicians of Pakistan origin in the US, while the number of engineers, IT and computer professionals are even higher. They are among the most prosperous professionals in the US. Most such families have strong cultural values.

There is no world class university in the US which represents the cultural values of Asian Americans or that of Pakistani Americans. A university representative of Asian values is the need of the hour, and will fulfill the cultural and political needs of this fastest growing constituency.

There is also a need for youth development as well as for an intellectual, social, cultural, commercial and political research center at the university keeping in view the fast changing global and domestic dynamics. An affordable and contemporary, technology driven, quality education and research-oriented university offering various professional programs coupled with liberal arts education is the need of the hour for the Asian American. The research center associated with the university will become a hub of intellectual activities, invited lectures, seminars, and conferences of interest to the Americans as well as the international community at large.

AMERICAN INDUS UNIVERSITY

The American Indus University (“Indus”), a tentative name subject to final approval by the Board, will be established as a world class new university in a large metropolitan area having a strong cultural diversity. It will offer affordable and contemporary, technology-driven, quality education and research in various professional programs coupled with liberal arts education. It will be accredited by both regional and program related agencies, and will be open to all American and non-Americans alike. It will focus on free and open exchange of ideas for the betterment of humankind, and will promote global tolerance, social cohesion and harmony in a pluralistic society. Indus will be multi-cultural and will be representative of, but not limited to, the Indus Valley Civilization that span from South Asia to Central Asia to the Middle East, but will not be a eastern university in the classical sense.

Indus’s vision is to become a crescent of innovation and excellence and quality in higher education, research and service. The mission of Indus is to educate its students (i) to recognize that knowledge is power, (ii) to be creative and innovative, (iii) to be technology driven, (iv) to encourage social cohesion, (v) to be caring, generous and responsible in a pluralistic society, and (vi) to coach its graduates in becoming socio-economically sustainable with a view towards developing global tolerance, harmony and prosperity.

THE INDUS IDENTITY

Indus is dedicated to advancing the frontiers of knowledge as a leader of the international community of higher learning. Indus insists on maintaining the highest academic standards to become a leader in higher education and research.

Indus will teach its students that knowledge is power and that the world is technology-driven. It expects its graduates to become socio-economically sustainable. Life at Indus will prepare men and women for worldwide leadership by integrating academic excellence and moral commitment within a caring community. A Indus education will inspire students to give generously with sensitivity to others both as individuals and as responsible citizens.

Indus's aim is to establish free and open exchange of ideas for the betterment of humankind. Indus aspires to maintain clear standards of intellectual and moral integrity in reviving the perennial values of the world's civilizations, and the visions of America's founders, and of other iconic leaders around the world, as guidance for building a peaceful and pluralistic society, and towards attaining global tolerance, harmony and prosperity.

As an American university, Indus will provide its students the traditionalist framework that led to the conviction that it is America's moral responsibility to become a model for the world. The framework or paradigm of traditionalist American thought consists of the mutually interdependent and reinforcing principles of order, justice, liberty and freedom.

Indus is founded to attract the best and the brightest to its vision and mission. Those who share this vision will provide each other with the stimulating intellectual, technological, creative and social environment that they all seek to learn and practice.

Indus will promote intellectually informed beliefs, spiritually inspired education and inter faith harmony. Indus will be secular in the sense of openness to the use of reason in exploring all the fundamental questions of life. Indus will be liberal in the sense of promoting freedom of thought and compassion, but conservative in the sense of respecting the traditionalist emphasis of the enlightened scholars of various beliefs on the interdependent pursuit of order, justice, liberty and freedom.

Indus will be open to students from abroad so that they can share the American vision and bring it home to help build a better pluralistic society and a global civilization based on universal human rights and responsibilities.

Gender equity will be fundamental to Indus's commitment to human rights. Women will be expected to play roles equal to men in the administration of the university, as well as in the faculty and student body, as well as in community service.

Indus's long-range purpose is to teach its students that knowledge is power, that the world is technology-driven, and that knowledge and prosperity acquired through life-long learning must be shared with the society and the community-at-large.

INDUS LOCATION

Indus will be located in a large metropolitan area having a strong cultural diversity. Some of the larger metropolitan areas that could accommodate Indus include Washington DC, Houston, Dallas, New York, Chicago, and Los Angeles among others. Most of these cities have large Asian and population. Local sponsorship will be a key factor in deciding the final location.

Among the above possible locations, a possible city to establish Indus could be Houston. Houston has a growing population. Metropolitan Houston has a population of over 7 million residents and moved up from the seventh largest city in the US in the 60s to the sixth largest in the 70s to the fifth largest in the 80s to the fourth largest in the nineties. According to the census data 2015, Houston metro had the largest population gain of any metro in the US, about 159,000, followed by Dallas-Fort Worth at 144,000. Both Harris and Fort Bend counties in Houston exhibited significant growth, and continue to grow at the same pace. Houston has a strong economy based on oil and gas, health sectors, technology and manufacturing. There are plenty of opportunities for internships, for student projects, and for employment in the Greater Houston area.

Greater Houston has the largest Asian as well as Muslim population in Southern United States. Asian population is estimated at 500,000 residents while Muslim population estimates vary from 100,000 to 150,000. It has over 100 mosques and praying areas.

Estimates of Pakistanis and Pakistani-Americans living in Greater Houston vary from 60,000 to 100,000. Most of them are concentrated in South West Houston. A majority of them are professionals and from the business community.

Houston is also a major visiting hub for the Asian and Muslim population living in South America and from the Middle East.

Metro Houston appears to be the most promising area for Indus, and the university could be located here subject to local sponsorship,

UNIVERSITIES IN HOUSTON, TX AND TUITION FEES

There are at least six accredited non-profit universities in the Greater Houston area. These include the University of Houston and the University of Texas (McGovern Medical School) which are state supported, and Rice University, University of St. Thomas, Houston Baptist University and North American University which are private universities.

The average annual tuition fees (rounded off) for most programs for in-state and out-of-state residents for these universities are (in decreasing non-state resident fees):

Rice University (\$ 45,000, \$ 45,000)

University of Texas Medical School (\$ 21,000, \$ 33,000)

Houston Baptist University (\$ 32,000, \$ 32,000)

University of St. Thomas (\$ 31,000, \$ 31,000)

University of Houston (\$ 10,000, \$ 26,000)

North American University (\$ 20,000, \$ 25,000)

(There are two other non-accredited universities in Houston, Stratford University and Strayer University, mostly offering online courses, with tuition fees of \$ 15,000 per annum).

The above fees does not include other miscellaneous fees, like laboratory, student activities, etc and for student boarding and lodging, and other living expenses, estimated at \$ 12,000 per annum which will add to the above cost.

PROPOSED TUITION FEES FOR INDUS

It is proposed that Indus will have an annual tuition fees of \$ 20,000 from 2019-20 academic year which will be the lowest of all accredited universities in Houston for non-state residents.

It is important to note that many students with eastern cultural background mostly stay with family and relatives, thereby offsetting much of the boarding and lodging expenses for them. Houston has a significantly large American Asian population, and Indus, if located in a city like Houston, will be attractive to many foreign students from the east as it will become a source of reduced living expenditures for them.

(Note: For the sake of comparison and information only, the American University of Sharjah (AUS), UAE, with over 4000 students, has a tuition fee of \$ 25,000 per annum, and is a popular destination for Pakistani, Indian and Middle Eastern Students). AUS is not an American school in the traditional sense. Habib University in Karachi, Pakistan has a tuition fee of \$ 12,000 per annum, while LUMS in Lahore charges \$ 8000 per annum with over ten times the number of applicants than the number of freshman seats).

THE AMERICAN INDUS UNIVERSITY

VISION

Indus Vision is to become a crescent of innovation and excellence in higher education, research and service.

MISSION

Indus Mission is to educate its students

- (i) to recognize that knowledge is power
- (ii) to be creative and innovative
- (iii) to be technology driven
- (iv) to encourage social cohesion
- (v) to be caring, generous and responsible in a pluralistic society
- (vi) to coach its graduates in becoming socio-economically sustainable with a view towards developing global tolerance, harmony and prosperity.

CORE VALUES

Indus strives for excellence and quality in learning and research

Indus recognizes that knowledge is power

Indus educates its students to be creative and innovative

Indus believes that progress is technology driven

Indus coaches its students to become socio-economically sustainable

Indus endeavors to become environmentally friendly

Indus encourages social cohesion

Indus values generosity and responsibility

Indus promotes tolerance and harmony in a pluralistic society

FOUNDING GOALS

To impart the best quality in education

To teach to be creative and innovative

To be technology driven

To conduct relevant research of interest to its community

To be affordable

To strive for a clean environment

To participate in a caring community

To promote global tolerance, social cohesion and peace

To serve a pluralistic society

ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

Some of the currently in-demand subjects include the following (in alphabetical order), which could be considered for offering at Indus over the first ten years of its establishment. Final program offerings will be recommended by the Indus Advisory Council and approved by the Board, and as per Mission of Indus and the Strategic Plans 2018-23 and 2023-2028.

(Note that the half-life of cutting edge technologies today are only one and half to maximum two years, so some of the technology-based subjects that are offered may become outdated, and new ones could emerge in the future which may be considered for offering. Indus will strive to keep pace with all new developments in the field and will continuously improve and update its curriculum).

Arts and Design: Fine Arts and Design; Interior Design; Performing Arts

Business and Management: Business; Management; Finance; Blockchain and Digital Currency; Logistics and Supply Chain Management; Entrepreneurship; Commodities; Economics; Accounting.

Engineering and Applied Sciences: Energy; Business Intelligence and Information Systems; Artificial Intelligence, Machine Learning and Deep Learning; Cyberforensics and Cybersecurity, Robotics; Next Generation Internet; Cloud Computing; Environment and Sustainable Development (including Organic Farming, Hydroponics, Aquaponics, etc.)

Health Sciences: Healthcare Management; Alternate Health Care; Medical (subject to funding and affiliation with local hospitals)

Social Sciences and Humanities: Mass Communication (Journalism and Media); International Relations; Applied Psychology; Social Entrepreneurship; Public Affairs and Administration; Law

In the first phase, and over the first five years, Indus will offer selected and unique academic programs from the above list at both Bachelor and Master level. The following subjects will be considered for first offerings:

Artificial Intelligence, Machine Learning and Deep Learning

Cyberforensics and Cybersecurity

Robotics

Next Generation Internet

Business Intelligence and Information Systems

Finance

Blockchain and Digital Currency

Logistics and Supply Chain Management

Entrepreneurship

Commodities

Allied Health Sciences

Final program offerings not limited to the above will be recommended by the Advisory Council and approved by the Board, and as per Mission of Indus and Strategic Plan 2018-23.

Liberal Arts courses offered at the undergraduate level at Indus will include: Innovation & Creativity, Climate Change & Sustainability, Languages, History and Civilization, Performing Arts / Sports, Social / Behavioral Sciences, Faiths and Beliefs, Interfaith Harmony.

Indus will also offer continuing education courses, certificates and diplomas which would be transferrable towards the degree program at Indus or to other accredited universities.

In addition to the above, a complete educational ecosystem will be established, which will include a Youth Development Center for school age children and a Day Care Center for Indus mothers.

ONLINE EDUCATION

An online university can be easily set up within a few months at minimal space and cost. However, the graduates of an online university are generally not preferred for new employment. Most graduates of online universities seek to learn new skills or in-house career advancement rather than seek new employment. Many credible universities around the world already offer online degree programs, but they all have credibility as a brick-and-mortar university. Most of them offer hybrid models.

Indus, after its programs are fully accredited, will consider moving into a hybrid model where some select courses could be offered online. Through online education, not only students from far flung areas and regions of the world could take advantage of Indus programs at a lower cost, but Indus would also be able to avail the services of specialized faculty from around the world, including the US.

It is important for a university to gain credibility first as a brick-and-mortar university before moving into a hybrid model.

FOREIGN CAMPUSES

There is great potential for an accredited American University to establish foreign campuses, which could be a source of additional revenue generation. Some of the promising countries include UAE (Dubai) and Pakistan (Karachi, Lahore or Islamabad) as starters.

THE INDUS CENTER

The Indus Center associated with the university will be a think-tank and a hub of intellectual activities, invited lectures, seminars, and conferences of interest to the community at large.

It will also conduct multi-disciplinary research in areas of interest to its academic programs and the community. The research will be conducted through Independent Studies, Bachelor Projects, Master Thesis, Doctoral Dissertation, and through Post-Doctoral Fellows (subject to sponsored funding).

Some areas of current interest include:

Pakistani-Americans and US Society

US Relations / Trade with Pakistan

Development in Pakistan

Governance and Human Rights in Pakistan

Economy in Indus countries (e.g. Islamic Finance, Banking and Economy, currently estimated at \$ 3 trillion by 2020)

INCORPORATION AS NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION

Indus will be incorporated as a non-profit organization and obtain tax exemption as a 501(c)3 non-profit organization by the US Internal Revenue Service (IRS) to enable it to receive tax exempt donations and endowments.

REGISTRATION, RECOGNITION AND ACCREDITATION

Indus will seek registration, recognition and accreditation from the following agencies:

US Department of Education

State Higher Education Body

The Regional Accreditation Agency (e.g. MSCHE, SACSCOC, WASC, etc.)

Academic Program Accrediting Agencies (e.g. AACSB for Business, APA for Psychology, NASPAA for Public Affairs, ABET for Engineering and Computing, LCME for Medical, CAHME for Healthcare Management, etc.).

Graduates will be prepared to become Board Certified in relevant professional fields (e.g. ANMCB for Naturopathic Medical Certificate, etc.), and to receive appropriate practice licensure.

Preparatory courses for SAT, GRE, GMAT, LSAT, and USLME would also be offered for the community.

US CITIZENSHIP AND IMMIGRATION SERVICES

Indus will register with the US Citizenship and Immigration Services to issue I-20s for F-1 and M Visa applicants.

BOARD OF REGENTS

The Board of Regents will be the key sponsors of the university and will be lifetime board members

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The Board of Trustees will be the governing body and will consist of at least 12 members who will be representative of key sponsors, foundations, endowments and granting agencies.

BOARD OF VISITORS

The Board of Visitors will be the advisory body and will consist of at least 12 members who will be representatives of sponsors from the local community as well as outside, to be approved by the Board of Trustees.

ADVISORY COUNCIL

The Advisory Council will consist of at least 12 members representing various academic and industrial fields who will be from the top in the US. The Board of Trustees will approve of the final list.

In addition, there will be individual Program Advisory Committees comprising of experts in the relevant academic programs and the industry.

ESTIMATED START-UP COST

It is estimated the first phase of the university, which will include the building and land estimated at \$ 10 million (with 20% down payment) with up to eight programs (six Masters and two Bachelors), will cost a minimum of \$ 6 million over a period of two and a half to three years.

As per feasibility attached, for the first year, the estimated cost break-up cost (rounded off) is as follows (final figures subject to detailed feasibility):

\$ 2 m	Acquisition of building and land (tentative, subject to actual cost)
\$ 1 m	Start-up phase capital cost
\$ 1 m	Operational cost for the first year till the university starts generating revenues from tuition fees

For the second year, anticipated revenues through tuition fees is estimated at \$ 3 m, while the operational cost for the first academic year is expected to be \$ 4 m

From its third academic year of operation, the university becomes sustainable and generates revenues to cover for past investment and for future growth.

Detailed feasibility with explanation is attached.

SPONSORSHIP AND ENDOWMENTS

Indus is seeking sponsorships from various organizations / groups / individuals. Schools / programs will be named after key sponsors. For example:

APPNA (Association of Physicians of Pakistani Descent of North America, a 15,000 strong body of physicians) has already agreed to sponsor the Health Sciences programs at its July 2017 Annual Meeting held in Orlando, FL.

Business and Information Management can be sponsored by the business community,

Engineering and Applied Sciences can be sponsored by the scientific and engineering community

Likewise, other large US charitable and research organization may agree to sponsor various programs or research at the university.

Sponsors will serve on various boards of the university.

\$ 1m plus	Board of Regents
\$ 500k plus	Board of Trustees
\$ 100k plus	Board of Visitors

START-UP PHASE

During the start-up phase, the following will be accomplished (not necessarily in the same order. Some tasks are overlapping and some are from the first phase establishment of the main university itself):

Steering Committee
Project Office
Detailed Business Plan and Feasibility
Strategic Plan 2018-23
Incorporation of Indus as a non-profit organization
Website Development
Fund raising and Endowments
Acquisition of Building and Renovations
IT Networking, Equipment and Software
Recruitment of Staff and key Program Coordinators
Development of Program Curricula, Course Descriptions and Syllabi
University Catalog
Faculty, Staff, and Student Handbooks
Quality Assurance Manual
University Policies and Procedures Manual
Recruitment of Faculty and senior Staff
Laboratories and Library
Registration with US DOE and State Higher Education Coordination Body
Accreditation Candidacy Application to the Accrediting Council for Independent Colleges and Schools (ACICS) – currently suspended
Accreditation Candidacy Application to the Regional Accreditation agency (example SACSCOC for TX)
Marketing and Admissions
Candidacy Applications to Program Accreditation Agencies (e.g. ABET, AACSB, LCME, etc.)

PROPOSER’S BIOGRAPHY

Dr Javaid Laghari has served as Chairman Higher Education Commission (HEC) Pakistan; Coordinator General COMSTECH; Senator in Pakistan Parliament; Founding President SZABIST; and Tenured Full Professor of Electrical and Computer Engineering and Director of Graduate Studies at SUNY Buffalo. He last served as Commissioner at the Ministry of Education UAE. He has published over 120 research papers and presented over 70 papers at International Conferences.

Dr Laghari is a Pakistani-American and has experience of establishing universities from concept to completion. He established SZABIST in Pakistan with four campuses, including one in Dubai, with over 8000 students, and has helped establish many other universities in Pakistan and UAE based on the American model. He also has experience in licensing and accreditation of universities globally, and with accreditation bodies globally, as he has

served in the top academic position in US, Pakistan and the UAE. He is well known in Pakistan for his principled stand on exposing the fake degrees of ministers and parliamentarians during his tenure as Chairman HEC. Email: jlaghari@gmail.com
Website: www.laghari.org

FAQs

Why Indus?

Indus is associated with eastern culture and represents the countries from South Asia to Central Asia to the Middle East. Indus is also representative of and is the identity of the Pakistan culture. However, the name itself is only tentative, and the final name of the university will be decided and approved by the Board.

What is the Indus edge?

Indus would offer unique and interdisciplinary cutting edge academic programs in technology, health and business-related fields, including but not limited to Artificial Intelligence, Cybersecurity, Robotics, Next Generation Internet, Business Intelligence, Blockchain, and Digital Currency. It would be “lean and mean” and different from other run of the mill universities. Most courses would include creativity, innovation and entrepreneurship in their syllabi.

Indus will use innovative teaching methodologies and cutting edge technologies to keep the cost of tuition down and make it easily affordable and accessible for both US and international students. It would have a single fee structure for in-state and out-of-students alike, which would be comparable to in-state tuition.

Indus would also offer at its undergraduate level liberal Art courses which include Innovation & Creativity, Climate Change & Sustainability, Languages, History and Civilization, Performing Arts / Sports, Social / Behavioral Sciences, Faiths and Beliefs, and Interfaith Harmony among others.

The Indus Center will be a “think-tank” for the Pakistani-Americans. There will be a Youth Development Center for school age children and a Daycare Center for Indus mothers as well. Continuing Professional Education and Skill Building courses will be a cornerstone of Indus academic programs for the local community.

Why is accreditation important?

Accreditation is the single most important recognition process in a university. Only students of accredited universities and programs are recognized and are eligible for federal

loans and grants, as well as I-20s. They can also transfer to any other accredited university around the world with full transfer of credits as applicable to the program. Graduates of accredited universities and programs are preferred for employment to others from non-accredited universities.

Accreditation is a continuous and ongoing process and is the most difficult and time consuming process in the life of a university, but one that brings it the maximum credibility and recognition. It requires scores of documents, including statements on vision, mission, core values, founding goals, strategic plan, governance, quality assurance, institutional effectiveness, academic programs, faculty, staff, students, learning & physical resources, financial resources & budgets, research policies, community engagement, public disclosure and integrity, among others.

It is important to be accredited by an agency recognized by the Council of Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA), Washington, DC and registered with the US Department of Education.

Why not fully online?

An online university can be easily set up within a few months at minimal space and cost. However, the graduates of an online university are generally not preferred for new employment. Most graduates of online universities seek to learn new skills or in-house career advancement rather than seek new employment. Many credible universities around the world already offer online degree programs, but they all have credibility as a brick-and-mortar university. Most of them offer hybrid models.

Indus, after its programs are fully accredited, will consider moving into a hybrid model where some select courses could be offered online. Through online education, not only students from far flung areas and regions of the world could take advantage of Indus programs at a lower cost, but Indus would also be able to avail the services of specialized faculty from around the world, including the US.

It is important for a university to gain credibility first as a brick-and-mortar university before moving into a hybrid model.

Why non-profit?

A for-profit university fails to deliver on quality education. They are also not eligible to receive tax-exempt endowments and donations from individuals and foundations.

Recently US Government and Congress has started to look down upon for-profit universities due to multiple scams.

There are many universities which conduct business without the purpose of gaining a profit for its “owners”. Instead, they take the income and utilize it to reach the universities’ long term goals in the local community or on a global level.

All top-ranking universities in the world are non-profit entities.

Which location?

Local sponsorship will be a key factor in deciding the final location. Any one of the cities identified above (Washington DC, Houston, Dallas, New York, Chicago and Los Angeles) are large metropolitan areas with a strong cultural diversity and could be ideal to set up Indus.

Even though most of these cities have a large number of universities, there is need to have a university which recognizes eastern values. There is always room at the top for another university to offer a unique, quality based and affordable education.

Indus will be located in a large metropolitan area having a strong cultural diversity. Some of the larger metropolitan areas that could accommodate Indus include Washington DC, Houston, Dallas, New York, Chicago, and Los Angeles among others. Most of these cities have large Asian and population. Local sponsorship will be a key factor in deciding the final location.

Among the above possible locations, a possible city to establish Indus could be Houston. Metropolitan Houston has a population of over 7 million residents and moved up from the seventh largest city in the US in the 60s to the sixth largest in the 70s to the fifth largest in the 80s to the fourth largest in the nineties. According to the census data 2015, Houston metro had the largest population gain of any metro in the US, about 159,000, followed by Dallas-Forth Worth at 144,000.

Houston has a strong economy based on oil and gas, health sectors, technology and manufacturing. There are plenty of opportunities for internships, for student projects, and for employment in the Greater Houston area.

Greater Houston has the largest Asian as well as Muslim population in Southern United States. Muslim population estimates vary from 100,000 to 150,000. It has over 100 mosques and praying areas.

Estimates of Pakistanis and Pakistani-Americans living in Greater Houston vary from 60,000 to 100,000. Most of them are concentrated in South West Houston. A majority of them are professionals and from the business community.

Houston is also a major visiting hub for the Asian and Muslim population living in South America and from the Middle East.

Indus could be located in Houston, TX subject to local sponsorship,

Would Indus be identified as a Muslim university?

Indus will not be a Muslim university in the classical sense but will be for all Americans and for all foreign nationals who qualify for admissions. Though the word Indus is representative of eastern civilization and culture, where Muslim population is dominant around its present civilization, it could act as a catalyst to attract American Muslims to its campus thereby creating a multi-cultural environment. The Muslim population itself is a large constituency in the US. Pew Research Center estimates that there were about 3.3 million Muslims living in the United States or about 1% of the total U.S. population, which is estimated to double by 2050.

There are, however, many Christian and Jewish faith based universities in the US offering multidisciplinary programs. Houston alone has two Christian universities: University of St. Thomas and Houston Baptist University. There are over a dozen Jewish Universities and Colleges in the US. Almost all of these Christian and Jewish universities offer multidisciplinary academic programs in addition to theological studies. Indus does not wish to be identified as a Muslim university.

There are however, Muslim colleges in the US. Zaytuna College in Berkeley, CA, is a liberal arts college, which is accredited with WASC but offers only theological studies. It offers only one program: BA in Islamic Laws and Theology.

Identified by name only, there are a few other Muslim Universities and Colleges which are all non-recognized and non-accredited. They are not proper colleges or universities and offer theological studies only. Few examples of above, which is irrelevant to this business plan, and is mentioned only for information, includes the American Islamic College in Chicago, IL, offers theological studies only and is non-accredited. Cordova University in Arlington, VA, also non-accredited, and now shut down, was part of Department of Defense program that used to train Muslim military chaplains. Islamic American University in Southfield, MI, also non-accredited, offers correspondence and online theological courses. Al Huda University in Houston, also non-accredited, offers only online theological courses. Similarly, Mishkah University in Wesley Chapel, FL, is also non-accredited and offers theological courses only. There may be a few others not on the educational radar. All of these colleges and universities are non-recognized, non-accredited, offer only online and correspondence theological courses, and have .com or .org domains, and not a proper .edu domain.

The interdisciplinary universities established by “eastern” sponsors in the US include the East-West University in Chicago East, founded in 1980 with the mission of providing quality, affordable, multi-cultural education to Chicago and the world. It is accredited by the HLC but has been on probation since 2015. On the other hand, the Virginia

International University near Washington, DC and North American University are two other examples which have a strong Turkish identity, are relatively successful and offer multi-disciplinary academic programs.

Indus university name

A search of “Indus” on the net yielded the following results: There are two Indus Universities, one in Pakistan <http://www.indus.edu.pk/> and one in India <http://www.indusuni.ac.in/>. There is also an Indus International University in India <http://www.iiuedu.in/> . There is also a bank in the Midwest called Indus American Bank <https://www.indusamericanbank.com/> .

Indus will be identified as the American Indus University and will have the domain www.americanindus.edu so that it is unique and will not conflict with any of the above domains on the net. This will give an educational, American and eastern identity to the university.

Jan 19, 2018