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Business banking in the United Arab Emirates

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In short: UAE corporate accounts are opened with the trade licence, constitutional documents and full due diligence on owners and signatories. Banks commonly prefer at least one signatory with a UAE residence visa and Emirates ID, may require minimum average balances (often tens of thousands of dirhams), and typically take from two to several weeks.

See the UAE company formation guide for free zone and mainland options.

Typical documents

- Trade licence, memorandum or articles of association, and certificate of incorporation (free zone or mainland).
- Establishment card and share register.
- Passports, and residence visas and Emirates ID for resident signatories.
- Beneficial ownership declaration, business plan, contracts or invoices, and evidence of source of funds.

Practical points

Each bank sets its own minimum balance and fee schedule, and requirements vary by free zone and activity. A residence visa obtained through the company (see UAE residence through your company) often makes onboarding easier. Banks may visit the office or ask for a lease agreement.

See also

- Opening a business bank account

- Company formation in the United Arab Emirates
- UAE residence through your company

References

1. Federal Authority for Identity, Citizenship, Customs and Port Security . ICP. Accessed November 2026.
2. The FATF Recommendations . Financial Action Task Force. Accessed November 2026.

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