

The AKU Pre-University Summer Programme

June 25 to July 2, 2025

Start your education journey today

Section A: Courses on Offer

You must choose one course from among the following

	Course Name	Introducing the facilitators	About the Course
1	<i>Communicating with Power, Passion, and Purpose</i>	Ms Jennifer Johnson is the Founder and Chief Innovation Officer at the Institute of Skill Enrichment. She is an Educationist with more than a decade of experience in teaching English Language & Literature, Digital Innovation & Transformation, and Professional Development. She has been the Head of IT and Digital Learning at Karachi Grammar School. As a specialist in her field, she prioritizes the holistic growth of individuals with her tailor-made curriculum.	<i>Writing is the most sophisticated form of communication. In this course, candidates will be able to express themselves meaningfully on paper and on stage. They will partake in specifically designed activities that allow for self-expression to prosper with formality and articulation; they will engage in public speaking while thinking critically and creatively to produce remarkable writings.</i>
2	<i>Data Science and Health</i>	Dr Zameen Nasim is a Senior Instructor at CITRIC Health Data Science Centre at AKU. She holds a bachelor's degree in software engineering from NED University, a master's degree in computer science from IBA, and a PhD in Computer Science from IBA. During her doctoral studies, she worked on several research projects that primarily focused on using natural language processing techniques for solving real-world problems. Her research interests include NLP, text analytics, data mining, social network analysis, and machine learning and data science.	<i>Data Science is a rapidly advancing field that allows knowledge extraction from vast amounts of data using various scientific methods and algorithms. Like several other industries, data science is revolutionizing the healthcare industry. To keep up with these current trends, this course is designed to provide pre-university students a sneak peek into use cases and hands-on applications for data science in healthcare with a special interest in resource settings such as Pakistan.</i>
3	<i>Psychology of Everyday Life</i>	Dr Nargis Asad has a PhD in clinical psychology and over 25 years of professional experience in the field. She is a Professor and Chair of the Department of Psychiatry at Aga Khan University. Dr Asad's main areas of interest in clinical and research endeavors are adolescent and women's mental health. She is actively involved in multidisciplinary educational and research activities with a focus on socio-cultural factors in suicidal	<i>Most of us get intrigued by questions such as "Why am I anxious in new situations"? "How can my peers get better grades than me by studying less?" "Are extroverts happier than introverts"? This psychology course will help you understand human behavior and related mental processes and will provide you with a deeper understanding of how we think, feel, and behave.</i>

		behavior in women & adolescents, gender, trauma, and resilience.	
4	Healthcare Simulation in Action	<p>This course will be taught by two facilitators.</p> <p>Mr Ghulam Nabie is an Advisor Simulation Administration at Centre for Innovation in Medical Education (CIME) at The Aga Khan University.</p> <p>Dr Selina Hasan is an Advisor Simulation Education in the CIME at The Aga Khan University. She is also an MBBS, MHPE (Netherland), CSEP.</p>	<p><i>Experience a day in the life of an Emergency Responder and learn basic skills to save lives. See how a state-of-the-art Global Simulation Centre innovates clinical education to drive patient safety.</i></p> <p><i>The course will cover some basic first-aid steps and hands-on experience with different simulators.</i></p>
5	Community Outreach	<p>Dr Nuzhat Farooqui, Clinical Associate Professor, Department of Surgery, and Service Line Chief, Urology and Nephrology, The Aga Khan University Hospital (AKUH) is a Tamgha-i-Imtiaz, the highest decoration given to any civilian in Pakistan based on their achievements.</p> <p>In 2009, Dr. Faruqui founded a not-for-profit organization, Ulphat, which assists in complex surgical procedures of infants and children from across Pakistan. She routinely holds medical camps in vulnerable areas around Pakistan, bringing primary healthcare closer to people. Her team has treated over 450 paediatric patients all over Pakistan suffering from complex diseases.</p>	<p><i>Populations living in small towns and rural areas are commonly faced with a lack of access to safe and affordable health. NGOs and medical volunteers' camps provide a wealth of exposure and experience in community-based medicine to medical students practicing in hospital-based settings.</i></p> <p><i>This course provides you with an opportunity to explore hands-on the support available through NGOs and medical volunteers' camps in rural and peri-urban environments.</i></p>
6	From a HUMAN BEING to a CRITICAL BEING: A course on critical thinking	<p>Shanaz Cassum is an Assistant Professor at the Aga Khan University. She is among the first 15 inaugural members of the AKU's prestigious Haile T. Debas Teacher's Academy, recognized for their Teaching Excellence. She conducts capacity-building workshops for nurses, faculty, and staff on various topics, including Critical Thinking, Instructional Pedagogies, and Curriculum alignment. Her research and publications focus on creating an enabling learning environment, the use of blended and online teaching, digital tools for learning, and student engagement.</p>	<p><i>Everyone thinks it is our nature to do what we do. But many times, our thinking is confounded by distortions, biases, and prejudices, and in many instances, is uninformed and partial. Disciplined thinking is all about personal empowerment, and it helps us greatly to take charge of our intellect. Excellence in thought, however, requires systematic cultivation. This module on critical thinking introduces the learners to the concept of critical thinking, as well as the skills and habits of a critical being. The module aims to improve the learner's critical thinking by sharing tools and techniques required to promote critical thinking.</i></p>

7	<p><i>Molecules and Modeling: Exploring Human Biology at the Lab Bench and in Code</i></p>	<p>Course lead Dr Arooj Shafiq is an Assistant Professor & Researcher in the Department of Biological & Biomedical Sciences at Aga Khan University. She is a distinguished biochemist, cancer researcher, bioinformatician, and structural biologist. She holds a PhD in Biochemistry from the University of Cambridge and has over 14 years of teaching experience. She has made significant contributions to biomedical research.</p> <p>Lab facilitators Mussarat Ashraf is a research specialist at Aga Khan University. She is a PhD scholar in Biotechnology at the University of Karachi and holds an MPhil in Clinical Microbiology & Immunology. With over a decade of research experience, she has contributed to multiple publications in genetics and biomedical sciences.</p> <p>Sabah Farhat is a research coordinator in the Department of Biological & Biomedical Sciences at Aga Khan University. She has expertise in the specialized domains of Physiology, Molecular and Cell Biology, Pharmacology, Scientific Data Management, and scholarly writing. Serving as a Coordinator, she has consistently refined and expanded student knowledge, primarily within the field of Physiology.</p>	<p><i>This course offers a unique hands-on opportunity to explore the wonders of the human body at the molecular level blended with bioinformatics. Students will unlock the secrets of life – isolate, visualize, and computationally model DNA, RNA, and protein - in a dynamic learning experience traversing the lab bench and the virtual world.</i></p>
8	<p><i>Social Entrepreneurship</i></p>	<p>Dr Laila Akbarali has hands-on experience working with the less privileged and with Social Entrepreneurs. With her MBA and training through a Social Entrepreneurship course from the University of London, she has also taught this course to students in HASS (Humanities and Social Studies in the Medical College).</p>	<p><i>Social Entrepreneurship (SE) is an emerging field. Entrepreneurs attempt to bring sustainable change in society, using the business entrepreneurship model, not only looking for big financial gains but focusing on big social gains.</i></p> <p><i>This course offers students an opportunity to understand entrepreneurship and SE; through examples to understand how social entrepreneurs make a change within their communities. Using case studies, students will learn about the challenges of the poor and, through the ideation model, will develop a social business model to address their challenges.</i></p>

9	<i>The Art of Digital Marketing: Designing, Branding, and Storytelling for Success</i>	Talha Bin Nadeem is the Communications Specialist at the Aga Khan University with over 8 years of experience across various industries in Pakistan and the US. Passionate about storytelling, he has 8+ years of experience in project management, social media management, graphic design, corporate communications, public speaking, and report drafting. Talha holds a bachelor's degree in English from the City University of New York – Baruch College, an Associate Degree in Business Administration from the Borough of Manhattan Community College, and Diplomas in Digital Media & Design and Strategic Marketing from NED University and the Institute of Business Administration (IBA).	<i>This course aims to provide candidates with a foundational understanding of digital marketing, graphic design, and branding. They will explore the basics of creating eye-catching visuals, telling compelling stories, and planning simple marketing strategies. Through group activities, they'll have the chance to collaborate and apply what they will learn in a practical way. By the end of the course, participants will have a solid starting point to continue exploring these areas and developing their skills further.</i>
10	<i>Let's Play with Numbers: Strengthening Problem Solving and Logical Reasoning</i>	Dr Munira Amirali is an Associate Professor and the Director of Masters' Programmes at AKU-IED. An educationalist with 30 years of experience in school and university teaching, she has dedicated her career to advancing teacher education at national, provincial, and school levels. Dr Munira has been a guiding force for graduate students through her teaching courses - teaching, learning, and assessment of mathematics, history and philosophy of mathematics, classroom assessment, curriculum teaching and learning, and qualitative research methods.	<i>The course will enable you to strengthen your mathematical thinking, logical reasoning, and problem-solving skills. A variety of learning resources, such as manipulatives, realia, technology, games, mental math strategies, and puzzles, will provide you with an opportunity to immerse yourself in the world of mathematical logical reasoning and experience thinking mathematically.</i>

Section B: Collaboration Sessions

All students will attend the following sessions

	Session Name	Introducing the facilitators
1	Icebreaking: Getting to Know Each Other	Registrar's Office and Human Resources Office
2	Environmental Challenges and Opportunities	Miriam Kugele is a sustainability expert and academic at The Aga Khan University, where she serves as the Director of the Office of Environment and Sustainability and a Lecturer in the Faculty of Arts and Sciences. She has over 15 years of experience in climate change and international development with various organizations, and she holds a Master of Science in Environmental Policy from the University of Oxford.
3	Leadership in Contemporary Times	Danish Imtiaz Nazar Ali holds an MBA from the Institute of Business Management with over 15 years of professional experience. He is a certified Neuro-Linguistic Programming (NLP) Practitioner. At AKU, Danish spearheads the Office of Student Affairs as a Senior Manager and is actively involved in student development initiatives. He has facilitated various capacity-building programs focusing on career development and life skills.
4	AI and Emerging Innovations	Kamran Nayyer is an accomplished IT professional with over 15 years of experience in software development, implementation, and project management, specializing in healthcare information systems. He has a proven track record of modernizing legacy systems, leading MEDITECH Expanse design and build initiatives and delivering innovative technology solutions for clinical and administrative operations in hospital environments. As the Senior Manager of Clinical Systems (IT) and Implementation Manager for Electronic Health Records (EHR) at The Aga Khan University Hospitals (AKUH), Kamran leads the development, support, and continuous enhancement of clinical and ancillary service applications across the AKUH healthcare network.
5	Financial Planning	Adeel Azhar is a prominent Pakistani broadcaster, podcast host, trainer, and cricket enthusiast. He is widely recognized for his engaging presence on Mera FM 107.4. He currently hosts the popular morning show Sunrise with Adeel Azhar. In early 2022, he decided to pursue his passions after quitting his full-time job after a career spanning almost two decades in Banking and logistics. Adeel is passionate about public speaking, sports, and mountains.

Section C: Creative Arts

Students have the option of choosing one creative art from among the following

	Creative Art	Facilitators
1	Learn the traditional art of Calligraphy	Muhammad Aamir Asghar
2	Appreciating Classical Dancing	TBD
3	Theatre	Muneeb-ur-Rehman
4	Visual Arts/Photography	Ali Jawaaid Vastani
5	Media as a Creative Industry	Zebunnisa Burki

July 2, 2025

You Can Make It Happen

Workshop Lead: Dr Hadia Pasha

Dr Hadia is a clinical psychologist who holds a PhD in Clinical Psychology from the University of Karachi. She has more than twenty-five years of experience in mental health and has pioneered programmes at AKU for the counselling and psychological wellness of students and PGME trainees. Her tailored workshops and one-on-one counselling sessions are immensely popular among the students.

Fee Schedule

Particulars	
Application Fee*	Rs 1,500
Programme Fee Breakup <i>(Payable upon acceptance of offer)</i>	
Course Fee Includes field trip, course fee, course material, and creative arts	Rs 40,000
Other Fees Health subscription * Security deposit **	Rs 1,000 Rs 5,000
Hostel rent with AC facility (if applicable) <i>Please pay according to your duration of stay.</i>	
8 days	Rs. 13,900
9 days	Rs. 15,600
10 days	Rs. 17,400
Notes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students may buy their food at our cafeteria; estimate @ Rs 500 per day. • Selected students must pay for the course and other fees, as applicable, upon receiving an acceptance. • Fees are non-refundable. • Limited financial assistance is available. • Students not in Pakistan must make their own travel and visa arrangements; University will provide the required letters. • Transport arrangements to and from the University will be the responsibility of the students if they do not stay in the hostel. • Students travelling from overseas must have travel insurance. <p>* Mandatory and non-refundable. ** Refunded after the programme after deducting damages.</p>	