



آغا خان یونیورسٹی  
THE AGA KHAN UNIVERSITY

**Offered by:** Human Development Programme  
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## Diversity, Equity and Inclusion in Early Years: an integrated approach

### Standalone Course with Graduate Credits

August 05- November 18, 2026, |2:00 to 5:00 pm PKT | Every Wednesday

The Master of Early Child Development (MECD) programme is pleased to announce a standalone course scheduled from August to December 2026. This course is part of the programme curriculum but can also be taken without enrolling in a degree programme.

### Course Description

This course aims to equip students with comprehensive knowledge, skills, and attitudes necessary to address equity and inclusion issues. It emphasizes the importance of early education in fostering diversity awareness and preparing children to contribute positively to society as they mature. The course is structured into two main parts: initially focusing on understanding discrimination markers and their implications, particularly in the Pakistani context, and subsequently exploring policies and practices related to gender equality and the inclusion of children with disabilities in education. Students' learning will be evaluated through group case studies analyzing inclusion/exclusion factors, classroom participation, and the development of gender and disability-inclusive Individualized Rehabilitation Plans (IRP), culminating in a reflective essay on their understanding of discrimination's role in socialization processes.

### Learning Outcomes

- Demonstrate an enhanced understanding of diversity, equity, inclusion and exclusion concepts.
- Understand and analyze the intersection of markers of discrimination, i.e., gender, ability and disability, language, ethnicity, religion, and class and implications for equitable participation in life in society.
- Explain the key concepts and perspectives around gender i.e., gender as a social construct, gender division of labor, space and professions, equity and equality, and construction of gender identity.
- Critically examine and explain gender enactment in society.
- Discuss disability and its related concepts including types of disabilities.
- Analyze contextually related issues in the life of children with disabilities with inclusion lenses.

### Audience

Physicians, nurses, allied health professionals, educationists, nutritionists, psychologists, sociologists, early-career professionals, interested in pursuing Early Child Development (ECD) as a potential career path.

### Important Information

- Submit the form via e-mail at [visiting\\_application@aku.edu](mailto:visiting_application@aku.edu) along with the followings as PDF file:
- Completed and signed application form along with photograph
- Attested copy of degree and marks sheet of sixteen years of schooling in the relevant field as mentioned in the criteria
- Attested copy of CNIC / Passport
- Attested copy of work experience letter

Interested candidates are encouraged to ensure that their applications are duly completed, as incomplete applications will not be processed. Kindly note, AKU may request additional documentation or equivalence certificate to seek clarity on your qualification.

The two-week face-to-face component (August 05-13, 2026) is mandatory for this course. However, participants unable to travel to Karachi will be required to visit a nearby inclusive school with students with disabilities enrolled in mainstream classes. A stable internet connection must be ensured, as the facilitator will join online during these visits.

#### Course Director:

**Dr. Kausar Waqar,**

**Senior Instructor, Human Development Programme**

### Enrolment Criteria

- Sixteen (16) years of education, or four (4) years after HSSC/F.A./F.Sc./Grade 12 (or equivalent) from an accredited /recognized university.
- Candidates who have at least one year of full-time work experience in an ECD-related field.

### Course credit can contribute towards a master's Degree

Candidates who achieve a CGPA of 3.5 or above after completing two courses or a CGPA of 3.0 or above after completing three courses are exempted from writing the Admission Test. They will be required to appear for an Interview. The courses are valid for three years only for entry into the MECD programme.



## Register Now

## Deadline is July 10, 2026

### Course fees:

- Residential Students PKR 117,000/-
- Non-Residential Students USD 680