

## Proposal Development (Academic Writing)

### Standalone Course with Graduate Credits

August 07- November 20, 2026, |2:00 to 5:00 pm PKT | Every Friday

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 emphasizes that the foundation of any research project begins with a thorough literature review. It highlights the importance of reviewing existing studies to build a strong rationale for research or grant proposals and underscores its essential role in thesis and dissertation writing. The course will guide students in identifying the most relevant textbooks, review articles, research papers, and journals related to their topics of interest. Students will develop key skills in critically reading and evaluating research literature, including gaining the knowledge required to conduct systematic reviews. Additionally, the course aims to strengthen academic writing abilities, enabling students to prepare research proposals, publications, and scholarly documents with clarity, precision, and well-structured arguments to effectively communicate ideas and research findings.

### Learning Outcomes

- Present a clear question and (where relevant) hypothesis to be tested.
- Demonstrate an understanding of structure, purpose and essential components of research proposal.
- Demonstrate skills to be able to conduct web-based search using a variety of search engines.
- Should be able to critically review and assess scientific literature.
- Develop relevant and cogent literature review for identified research questions.
- Demonstrate skills to develop a full research proposal for a master's thesis.
- Demonstrate skills for conducting ethical research with children.
- Demonstrate an understanding of potential logistical, personnel -related and budgetary issues.

### 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.

#### Course Directors:

**Dr. Nick Brown,**

Visiting Faculty, Aga Khan University

**Dr Muhammad Shahid Shamim,**

Professor & Associate Dean, Educational Development

### 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