



THE AGA KHAN UNIVERSITY



Faculty of Arts and Sciences

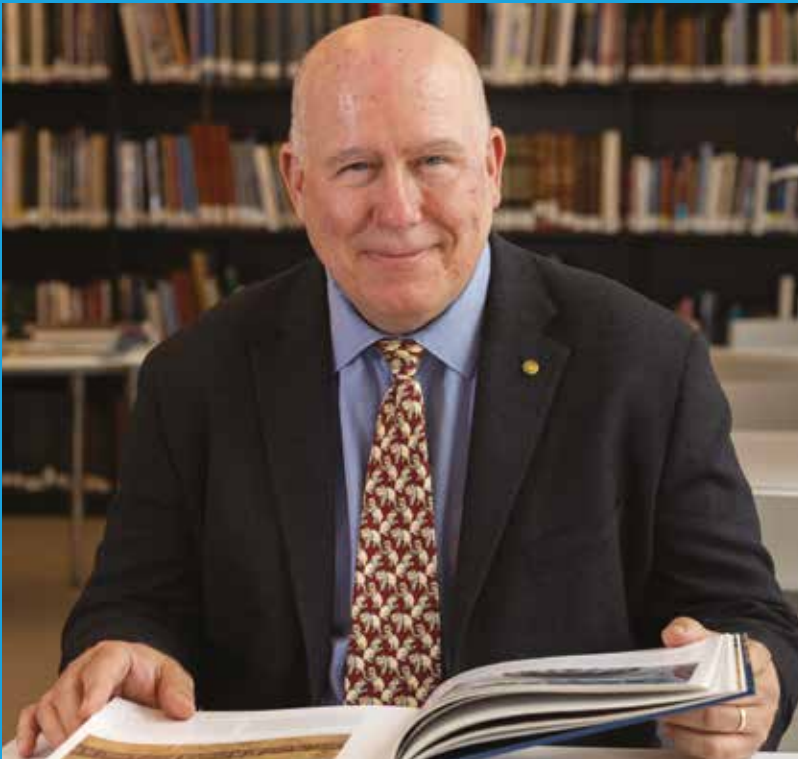




Professor Anjum Halai
Regional Vice-Provost and Founding Dean
Faculty of Arts and Sciences

“ In an increasingly technological and data-driven world, a great education in the arts and sciences prepares students for a range of professions and careers. Students will have the tools to succeed in business, government, the non-profit world, creative fields, and top graduate schools. They will have the analytical skills, communication skills, leadership skills, and the capacity for innovation.

This is an education that stands out in the landscape of higher education globally. FAS graduates will be able to choose multiple career pathways and will be employable in any industry. ”



Professor Stephen Lyon
Inaugural Dean
Faculty of Arts and Sciences

“ With the FAS, AKU is launching an exciting new initiative in the higher education sector in Pakistan. One of its aims is to make a meaningful contribution to the growth and direction of an inclusive and pluralistic civil society.

Students who join the FAS will be exposed to a scholarly programme that invites them to consider how a range of academic disciplines define and investigate some of the most fascinating questions in their fields. Rather than carving out separate streams for arts students or sciences students, the programme helps students to understand how the arts and sciences together can address global issues, and facilitate novel ways of thinking about things from multiple perspectives. ”



2023

launch of AKU's
new Faculty of Arts
and Sciences

4

undergraduate
majors in the arts
and sciences

up to **100**

students per year

up to **400**

students at full
capacity from 2027



The mission of the Aga Khan University's Faculty of Arts and Sciences (FAS) is to educate youth to become future leaders. It will develop leaders through a transformative education that is endlessly challenging, stimulating and mind-opening – one that prepares graduates for innovative thought and consequential action.

This form of education develops the whole person with a wide-ranging, multidisciplinary learning experience that equips graduates for success in whatever career they eventually choose. This is the approach to undergraduate education taken by renowned universities such as Harvard and Yale. It is this tradition that has inspired the creation of FAS – precisely because it is known for producing leaders in every field of human endeavour.

About the Programme

Core Curriculum

The Core Curriculum (Core) integrates knowledge and thinking from across a broad range of fields and approaches in the arts and humanities, and the natural and social sciences. This interdisciplinary approach encourages orientation to multiple ways of seeing, understanding and representing phenomena by posing integrative questions.

The Core will also expose students to the data sciences and its relationship to the wider arts and sciences. Students will be offered learning and research opportunities in areas such as programming, big-data, data management, visualisation, artificial intelligence and machine-learning, digital literacy, and the digital humanities.

Additionally, students will learn about cultural encounters across the worlds of the Indian Ocean. These encounters and cultural contacts have, over centuries, given rise to cities, ports, civilisations, and shared knowledge. They have facilitated a link between the diverse worlds of Asia, India, Arabia and Africa.

All students will take the Core in their first and second years, after which they will take more specialised courses in line with their major.

Senior Thesis

This project allows students to research and present on a specific area related to their major and consider where more in-depth study is needed.

Experiential Learning

This component of the programme enables students to engage in hands-on experiences and reflection, connecting concepts in the classroom with real-world situations. It includes a residential retreat, at least once during their four-year degree, an internship in Pakistan or abroad, many in collaboration with the Aga Khan Development Network, and other activities.

Four Majors

Students will choose from one of four majors

Asian and Middle Eastern Studies

The major prepares students to critically assess and analyse historical and contemporary phenomena and developments. Through an in-depth study of languages, cultures and histories, the major educates students in social sciences and humanities theories, as well as provides opportunities for applied research skills.

Social Development Studies

This major addresses the increasing focus on social aspects of development in policy, planning, and practice. It adopts a critical approach to ethical and people-centred development for promoting well-being and equitable citizenship in highly diverse societies, such as urban contexts.

Philosophy, Politics and Economics

The major draws from three major disciplines. Philosophy develops analytical, critical, and logical rigour, enabling students to formulate deep questions. Politics provides a thorough understanding of the impact of political institutions on modern societies and examines the concepts and values used in political analysis. Economics is necessary to make sense of governmental policymaking, the conduct of businesses, and the enormous economic transformations emerging globally.

Human and Environmental Biology

One strand of this major will examine humans from the molecular to the macroscopic, through topics such as development, genetics, evolution, physiology, and anatomy. The second strand will examine the environment and context in which we live and develop. The interweaving of strands provide students with opportunities to understand climate change and processes of mitigation and adaptation, as well as to construct meaningful and responsible relationships with nature.

Hallmarks of an FAS graduate



Clear Communication

Those who cannot effectively share the fruits of their critical thinking fail in one of the key tasks of leadership, which is to build understanding of vital goals and issues through persuasive communication. The ability to clearly communicate one's ideas to multiple audiences – in writing, orally and visually – will be among the most important attributes of FAS graduates.



Commitment to Service

True leaders think of their duty rather than their power. Good leaders view their position as a trust, they work for the good of others, for the service to others. Though many look up to them, they do not look down, but measure their own actions against their guiding principles to see if they are indeed worthy of emulation.



Entrepreneurial Outlook

What do we mean by an entrepreneurial outlook? Not one motivated by profit. Rather, the determination to tackle daunting challenges and do that which has never been done, whether in art, science or business. The confidence in one's abilities and the recognition that great achievements require calculated risks.



Engagement with Pluralism

Pluralism enriches our lives by expanding our sense of what it means to be human. But it also presents serious challenges. We want graduates to understand the ways diversity can open the mind, as well as the discomfort and misunderstandings it can occasion. We want them to remain optimistic about the potential for reason and discussion to bring us closer together.



Creativity

Creativity helps us to take an idea developed for one purpose and adapt it to another, to see a problem from the perspective of different individuals, cultures and academic disciplines. It makes it possible to narrate another person's story as they themselves might, and to understand the roots of a worldview we do not share.



Critical thinking

The critical thinker combines skill in quantitative reasoning; the ability to scrutinize ideas in the light of their social and historical context; and close attention to humans' emotional needs and cognitive biases. Enduringly curious, they are lifelong learners who relish opportunities to add to their knowledge.



Ethical Action

Around the world, we see corruption eroding trust and compromising the effectiveness of institutions. Our graduates must be capable of rigorous ethical reasoning and committed to acting upon the conclusions they reach. They must have the independence of mind needed to swim against the tide and the honesty required to scrutinize their own conduct as closely as that of others.

Career Pathways



FAS graduates can go on to choose multiple career pathways

Some examples of industries by major include:

Asian and Middle Eastern Studies

Academia, NGO and business sectors, diplomacy, journalism.

Social Development Studies

Social work, community organisation, education, communications, advocacy, public service, international relations.

Philosophy, Politics and Economics

Politics and government, public policy, law, economics, international relations, business and management.

Human and Environmental Biology

Researchers of human health and disease, agricultural or food scientists, biotechnologists, climate change specialists, public policy.

Financial Assistance

AKU is merit-based in terms of its admissions. Likewise, FAS is committed to ensuring that families with limited means are financially supported. As such, generous financial assistance packages will be offered to those who need them and meet the admissions criteria.

In fact, FAS is actively recruiting talented students from non-traditional backgrounds. For example, students who would be the first in their family to attend university, or who come from areas where few people go on to university.

FAS wants to have a student body that is diverse. We want our students to have the opportunity to get to know people from different areas, and from backgrounds unlike their own. We think that is an important part of a great education.





Campus Life

FAS students will spend their four years on our 83-acre campus in Karachi. The campus has a one-of-a-kind sports centre, access to the latest technology and beautiful gardens for recreational activities.

FAS is housed at the new 17-storey University Centre and features state-of-the-art classrooms, a cafeteria with indoor and outdoor dining areas and plenty of space to study, ponder, and relax.

The new FAS Library holds over 18,000 publications and membership to numerous online journals. Students will have access the new Development Lab – an innovation hub to generate creative ideas to address real-world problems.

Student Life

Academic work is only one aspect of the FAS experience. A wealth of co-curricular activities will offer numerous opportunities for self-discovery and peer-to-peer learning. Team sports, debate clubs, music and drama groups, literary and research journals and visits by inspiring speakers will foster a vibrant campus where there is always another chance to form a new interest, make a new friend, acquire a new skill, and collaborate with classmates.





A History of Excellence

AKU is known as a pioneer and a quality leader. Founded in 1983 by His Highness the Aga Khan, AKU was Pakistan's first private university.

Our Medical College has repeatedly been ranked the country's best, our School of Nursing and Midwifery is Pakistan's most influential, and our Examination Board and Institute for Educational Development were the first such private institutions in the country. Six out of Pakistan's 10 most productive health researchers are AKU faculty members, and their work – much of which focuses on improving the health of the poor – has had a significant impact locally and globally. Our graduates go on to study and work at internationally renowned institutions, and to make a difference in Pakistan and around the world as leading researchers, teachers, clinicians, entrepreneurs, advocates and policymakers.

The Aga Khan University Hospital was the first in Pakistan to meet the rigorous accreditation standards of the U.S.-based Joint Commission International and the College of American Pathologists. The University's annual economic impact in Pakistan is more than US\$ 1.45 billion, according to a study by U.S.-based Centennial Group International.

AKU's global reputation is reflected in its leadership and the many organisations with which it has collaborated. Moreover, AKU is an agency of the Aga Khan Development Network (AKDN), one of the world's largest private development organizations. In Pakistan, AKDN has positively impacted millions of lives through its renowned rural support programme, 160 schools, historic preservation work and private-sector investments. AKU's ability to collaborate with its fellow AKDN agencies, in Pakistan and abroad in over 30 countries, is a major advantage for the Faculty of Arts and Sciences.



“ The liberal arts, I believe, can provide an ideal context for fostering inter-disciplinary learning, nurturing critical thinking, inculcating ethical values, and helping students to learn how to go on learning about our ever-evolving universe. ”

His Highness The Aga Khan
Chancellor, Aga Khan University



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