

# Arts and Sciences

Prospectus 2024

www.aku.edu/faspk



"With the establishment of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences in Pakistan, the University is ushering in a new era in its development – widening its horizons and acquiring new capabilities in the humanities, social sciences and natural sciences. This new faculty, our first in Pakistan in 30 years, marks the beginning of AKU's evolution into a truly comprehensive university. In a world of constant change, growing diversity and global interconnection, FAS will lay the foundation for a life of continuous

Princess Zahra Aga Khan
On behalf of AKU's Chancellor, His Highness the Aga Khan

learning and an understanding of widely varying perspectives."

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# Message from the Dean

Changing societies is a risky enterprise. Societies will change on their own over time, but ideally, we would like to be able to nudge some of that change in directions that make life better for people. Sometimes, improving life for some groups can be perceived as a threat to other groups. Today, we face a rise in resentment and anger from groups of people who feel their rights are being eroded as a consequence of empowering historically marginalized categories of people. To intervene, is consequently like dancing in a minefield. There is a risk that we will do tremendous damage with the best of intentions. Whether we are giving voice to those who have been silenced, creating economic opportunities for those who have endured generations of poverty, establishing robust institutional checks on authority, or just creating space for people to have fun, we potentially clash with entrenched interests. Those interests may be less enthusiastic about our initiatives than we would like.

Embarking on an interdisciplinary programme of learning and education that equips us to approach complex problems using multiple approaches, and even asking radically different questions, is a pivotal part of preparing to change the world. The most pressing problems confronting humanity today cannot be resolved with techno-centric solutions alone. Nor can they be satisfactorily addressed with purely rhetorical re-framing of the context. We need to merge the practical, empirical disciplines with those that are more theoretical, creative, and serendipitous. By bringing together the arts, humanities, social and natural sciences, we enable a new way of thinking that will transform the world. Grounding that interdisciplinary training in an ethical and moral foundation means that the solutions to our complex problems will be better able to anticipate the problems that arise from our interventions.

It is an honor to serve as the Inaugural Dean of Arts and Sciences at Aga Khan University for many reasons. Perhaps the most important one is knowing that I have the chance to nurture and support the people who will make the world a better one for all future generations.

Professor Stephen Lyon
Inaugural Dean
Faculty of Arts and Sciences

# About the Faculty of Arts and Sciences

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 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, producing leaders in every field of human endeavour, for active citizenship, and meaningful lives.

At FAS, leaders will possess the character and intellectual capacities necessary to improve people's lives. They will be impassioned and well-informed women and men who say, "We must do better," and then take considered action to bring about the future they wish to see.

To accomplish this, FAS draws on the rich tradition of arts and sciences education at the highest international standards while adapting it to local and regional contexts, infusing it with AKU's distinctive values of impact, quality, relevance, and access. We believe the result is one of the most exciting developments in higher education in Pakistan in recent memory. And we invite you to explore how FAS will transform your higher education experience.



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# About the Programme

# An undergraduate degree in the arts and sciences

Higher education is often understood to mean professional education. That is, students attend university to obtain the qualification needed to begin a career in medicine, engineering, or law, or to study a single subject such as business. There is, however, another approach, with a long and distinguished history, one that seeks, in the words of an early proponent, "not to teach that which is peculiar to any of the professions, but to lay the foundation for that which is common to them all."

The FAS undergraduate degree is a transformative programme. It is a deeply integrated and holistic academic structure with four connected principal components. These components balance disciplinary knowledge with an inspiring general education anchored in practical learning.

#### The four components are:

The Core Curriculum Interdisciplinary Majors

Senior Thesis

Experiential Learning

For more information about all four components, visit www.aku.edu/faspk/study/programmes

The Core Curriculum, or simply the Core, introduces a breadth of study through the integration of knowledge and thinking from across a wide range of fields and approaches in the arts and humanities, and the natural and social sciences. Making up the first two years of study in the four-year programme, the Core ensures that every student shares a formative intellectual experience.

The Core has been developed across seven key areas: historical analysis, literature and culture, social analysis, ethical reasoning, quantitative reasoning, scientific inquiry, and the communication of ideas through synthesis and debate. These areas will nurture students' ethical orientation to personal and public action, encourage their ability to integrate reflective and practical knowledge, and engage in lifelong intellectual curiosity about our world – its culture and environment.

This truly interdisciplinary approach encourages orientation to multiple ways of seeing, understanding, and representing phenomena by posing integrative questions.

Critical to our times, the Core will also expose students to data sciences and its relationship to the wider arts and sciences. Students will learn about global human encounters and the diversity of cultures around the Indian Ocean, connecting the Sub-Continent, Asia, Arabia and Africa. After completing the Core, students will take more specialised courses in line with their major.



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# Interdisciplinary Majors

The interdisciplinary majors allow for a deeper exploration in specialised areas of study. The majors emphasise the Core whilst empowering students to analyse the world and engage effectively within it. These majors will allow graduates to stand out with future employers and the ability to develop a better world.

#### The four majors are:

- Asian and Middle Eastern Studies
- Social Development Studies
- Philosophy, Politics, and Economics
- > Human and Environmental Biology



# Senior Thesis

The senior thesis in the final year involves self-directed research in an area of interest related to their major. Building on the depth explored in the majors, the senior thesis will encourage student independence, as they integrate both reflective and practical knowledge.

The research and its presentation, which are supported by methodology courses, will use both quantitative and qualitative method. Approaches will range from literature reviews, interviews and ethnography to laboratory-based science experiments.

The outcome of this inquiry-based exercise will not necessarily be presented solely through a traditional piece of writing. Students will be encouraged to use mediums of presentation that are appropriate to the subject of study.

This unique and invaluable experience will enable students to develop skills and insights that are immediately transferable to pathways pursued after graduation. Future employers or further academic graduate problems will both recognise these skills and regard them with high interest.



# Experiential Learning

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Experiential learning is an important pedagogical tool employed throughout the FAS educational programme. This is informed by the philosophy that meaningful learning occurs if it is integrated in context, where students can learn to connect classroom concepts to real-world situations, challenges, and opportunities.

This approach to learning at FAS is manifested through internship placements either in Pakistan or abroad, and a residential retreat to a culturally significant site in Pakistan, at least once during the four-year programme. Students will also have the opportunity to access the Development Lab where they can innovate solutions to pressing problems in society and participate in an exciting suite of co-curricular clubs.

The internships allow students to hone skills for their professional and personal development whilst gaining a deeper appreciation and understanding of the complex forces defining community life amidst broader societal issues and opportunities. Placements are facilitated locally in Pakistan and internationally where AKU campuses operate.

FAS will leverage the University's unique position within the Aga Khan Development Network and civil society more widely to secure exceptional host organisations for highly productive assignments.



The FAS programme offers a unique and unparalleled opportunity for individuals seeking to delve into and comprehend the complexities of 21st-century issues from a comprehensive standpoint. Designed to meet the increasing need for professionals possessing a well-rounded understanding of the humanities, coupled with the practical skills required to initiate and oversee international projects, this degree programme incorporates a hands-on approach, a global perspective, humanistic education, and cutting-edge facilities for students.

Irene Martínez Fernández Lecturer, Faculty of Arts and Sciences





# Asian and Middle Eastern Studies

Asian and Middle Eastern Studies is an interdisciplinary major that aims to develop in-depth knowledge about the regions and diversity of Asia and the Middle East. The programme prepares students to approach and critically assess the regions' developments and phenomena, and engage with its dynamic cultures and civilisations, both from contemporary and historical perspectives.

The importance of the Indian Ocean will be studied as a geographical area which connects cultures, languages, ethnicities, religions and economies.

FAS will apply humanities and social sciences methods and frameworks of inquiry to better understand and appreciate these regions in all their interrelated complexities from social, historical, political, religious, cultural, linguistic, and artistic perspectives. In this way, the major in Asian and Middle Eastern Studies becomes highly instrumental to developing the intellectual capacity to explain and predict how cultures and civilisations interconnect and carry influence across modern-day boundaries and conduits, regionally and globally.

# Career pathways

This Major is suitable for students who would like to pursue a career in academia, NGO and business sectors, or in the diplomatic arena. It is also suitable for future journalists and educators who would like to develop a foundation of understanding of Asia and the Middle East.



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# Social Development Studies

This major addresses the increasing focus on social aspects of development in policy, planning, and practice. It takes a critical approach to ethical and people-centred development for promoting quality of life, well-being, and equitable citizenship in the context of highly diverse societies, particularly in urban contexts. Students will learn to critique development interventions from a socio-cultural perspective especially in the Global South.

Courses develop foundational knowledge and skills including critical thinking, problem-solving, quantitative reasoning, and civil society engagement. Students will be exposed to the disciplines of gender studies, education and urban sociology.

For practical learning, students are afforded an invaluable opportunity to engage with practitioners and projects substantiating the various fields of endeavour in human development as led by the Aga Khan Development Network in Pakistan and globally.

# Career pathways

Graduates will be prepared for professional roles in social work, community organisation, education, communications, advocacy, public service, international relations, and across the private, public and non-for-profit sectors. Students can also apply to graduate schools in education, development, sociology, public policy, and business, just to name a few.

The Philosophy, Politics and Economics (PPE) major supports the development of ethical leadership required to help transform institutions when they have become fragile through weak governance and management systems and compounding internal and external forces.

PPE draws from three major disciplines:

Philosophy develops analytical and critical reasoning, by enabling students to understand the production of knowledge, ethics and reasoning;

Politics provides a thorough understanding of the impact of political institutions on modern societies, examining the concepts and values used in political analysis; and

**Economics** considers how consumers, firms and government make decisions that collectively determine how and where resources are allocated, the understanding of policy-making, the conduct of businesses, and the enormous economic transformations emerging in the world.

Students will be challenged to understand connections, interdependencies, tensions, and synergies among the branches of PPE as they are found in differing contexts globally.

# Career pathways

The PPE major will prepare students for careers in politics and government, public policy, law, economics, international relations, business and management, amidst many others. Academically, students will be prepared for entry into numerous schools and disciplines in higher education.





# Human and Environmental Biology

This major focuses on two strands: human biology and environmental biology. The former examines humans from the molecular to the whole organism, relating structure to function through topics such as development, genetics, evolution, physiology, and anatomy.

The latter seeks to understand the environment in the context of the many species that interact within it, including humans, with a particular focus on nature and impacts of climate change.

The interweaving strands provide students with multiple opportunities. They will understand the science of climate change, study the process of mitigation and adaptation, and the disposition to construct more meaningful and responsible relationships with nature and public and individual health.

Students will be afforded a unique opportunity to develop foundational knowledge and skills through FAS' environmental and ecological laboratory, situated on the outskirts of Karachi. Combined with features of urban and rural development, the 1000-acre site boasts an impressive range of flora and fauna but not without serious challenges to the area's biodiversity and capacity for carbon sequestration to combat the worse effects of our polluted and warming planet.

# Career pathways

Graduates can pursue careers as researchers of human health and disease, agricultural or food scientists, health communication specialists, leaders for environmental welfare organisations, advocates for the effective management of harvested natural resources, serve as custodians of biodiversity, and much more. Students can also pursue further studies in environmental biology, conservation biology, biology and biological sciences, environmental and climate sciences, sustainable development, public policy and much more.

The Faculty of Arts and Sciences embodies our Chancellor's vision of providing the best educational opportunities to students in Pakistan and the developing world through inclusion, diversity and expanded access to world-class education. This vision extends beyond the cultivation of top-tier health care professionals, aiming to nurture individuals who will invigorate civil society, advocate for good governance, drive social and economic progress, foster appreciation for pluralism and promote ethical conduct.

Sulaiman Shahabuddin President, Aga Khan University





# Teaching and Learning

#### At FAS, teaching and learning methods include:

- problem-based learning, where students spend substantial class time solving problems using concepts learned in lectures, readings or online research;
- team-based learning, which offers opportunities for learning in small groups; and
- inquiry-based learning, which encourages the discovery of concepts through experimentation.



# A sample of courses for the Core and for each major:

#### The Core

Gender, Islam & Politics
Power, Identity & Resistance
Introduction to Economics
Introduction to Climate
Change
Introduction to Chemistry
Introduction to Statistics

History of the Silk Roads

Art of South Asia
History of South Asia
Literature of South Asia
Islamic Studies
Pakistan Studies
Academic English Language
Skills

# Asian and Middle Eastern Studies

Paths to Sufism

Trends in Modern and

Contemporary Literature

Research Methods in

Humanities and Social Sciences

# Social Development Studies

Principles of Economics
Child, Nutrition and
Development
Youth and Education
Culture as a Springboard to
Development

# Philosophy, Politics and Economics

History of Politics and its
Developments
History of Philosophy
Political Sociology

# Human and Environmental Biology

Introduction to Data Science
Concepts in Genetics
Role of Biology in
Understanding Climate Change



FAS provides an intellectual platform where teaching and learning opportunities exist beyond the boundaries of curricula, courses and classrooms. It is an academic space which combines and connects the disciplines of arts and sciences which educates and enlightens young minds for future leadership. My course, Gender, Islam and Politics: Historical Perspectives, draws from the pages of the Islamic texts and political contexts, interconnecting the past contextual realities to the present political challenges which young Muslims face today. FAS encourages students to question and critique the available literature in order to construct a more transparent and objective body of knowledge.

**Tahira Khan** Visiting Assistant Professor Faculty of Arts and Sciences







THE FACULTY OF ARTS AND SCIENCES





The heart of any academic institution is its library, and FAS is excited to open the doors to its state-of-the- art, digitally augmented library in the arts and sciences. Coupled with a learning and educational commons, inviting students, faculty and the general public, the FAS library houses over 18,000 publications and provides access to numerous online journals.

# Hallmarks of FAS Graduates

Who will FAS graduates become?

What new dispositions and perspectives will they possess and offer to our world?

In short, FAS graduates will be leaders in whatever field and path they pursue, characterised by personal integrity, intellectual excellence, and a commitment to the communities in which they live.

More precisely, and to guide curricular design and learning outcomes, we have thought carefully about the attributes and skills needed for transformative leadership in a complex and fast-evolving world.

We refer to the four Cs and three Es that define the hallmarks of FAS graduates.



#### **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.



#### **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.



#### **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.



#### 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 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. This outlook also means a confidence in one's abilities and the recognition that great achievements require calculated risks.

# Meet the Faculty

The women and men who teach the FAS curriculum are world-renowned for their instructional skills, research contributions and expertise in interdisciplinary studies in the arts and sciences.

Learn more at www.aku.edu/faspk/people

# Core Faculty: Arts and Sciences



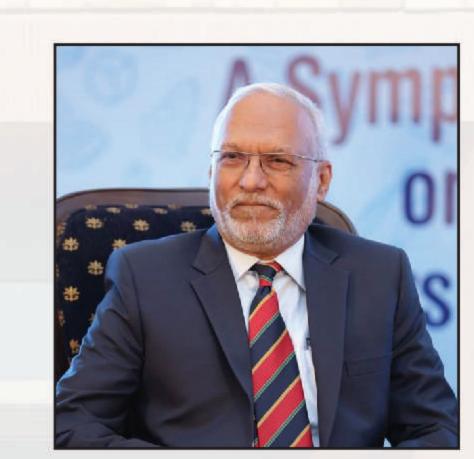
Stephen Lyon

Dean and Professor



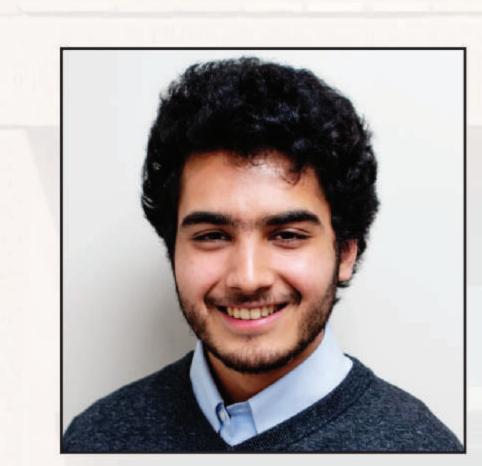
**Kylie Gilchrist** 

Visiting Lecturer



**Abbas Husain** 

Lecturer



Saeed Husain

Assistant Lecturer



Amna ljaz

Assistant Professor

# Faculty from Aga Khan University



Sanaa Alimia

Assistant
Professor
Institute for the
Study of Muslim
Civilisations



**Carl Amrhein** 

Provost and Professor



**Mathew Barber** 

Assistant
Professor
Institute for the
Study of Muslim
Civilisations



**Alex Bellem** 

Assistant
Professor
Institute for the
Study of Muslim
Civilisations



**Hadi Enayat** 

Assistant
Professor
Institute for the
Study of Muslim
Civilisations



Tahira
Shahid Khan
Assistant

Professor



Ashar Malik

Assistant Professor



Irene Martínez Fernández

Lecturer



Farah Nisar

Assistant Lecturer



**Emmanuel Sullé** 

Assistant Professor



Walid Ghali

Associate
Professor
Institute for the
Study of Muslim

Civilisations



Anjum Halai

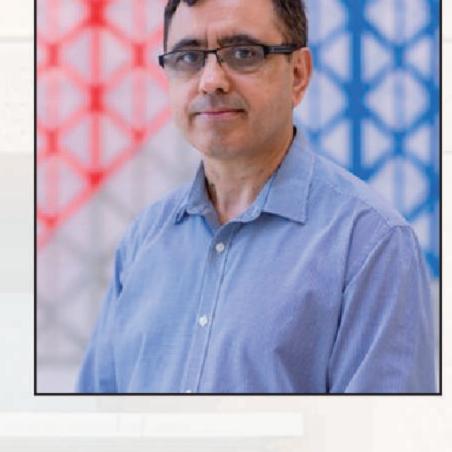
Professor and Regional Vice-Provost



Zahra Hasan

Professor

Medical College,
Pakistan



Shah Hussain

Collection
Development
Librarian

Aga Khan Library,
London



Shehzad Jeeva

Associate Professor and CEO

Aga Khan Examination Board



Jonas Otterbeck

#### Professor

Institute for the Study of Muslim Civilisations



Fozia Parveen

#### Assistant **Professor**

Institute for Educational Development, Pakistan



Stephane Pradines

Professor

Civilisations

Institute for the Study of Muslim



**Daniel Raynor** 

Director

Network of English Language Enhancemen



Nusrat **Fatima Rizvi** 

**Assistant Professor** 

Institute for Educational Development, Pakistan



Philip Wood

**Professor** 

Institute for the Study of Muslim Civilisations



Sarah Bowen Savant **Professor** 

Institute for the Study of Muslim Civilisations



Rahedeen Shamsher Ali

Network of English Language Enhancement



Specialist

**Professor** Institute for the Study of Muslim



Leif Stenberg

Dean and

Civilisations

Jeff Tan



**Associate Professor** 

Institute for the Study of Muslim Civilisations



Peter Verkinderen

**Assistant Professor** 

Institute for the Study of Muslim Civilisations





**Shahzad Bashir** 

Aga Khan Professor of Humanities

Brown University



Bilal I. Gilani

Visiting **Assistant Professor** of Practice

Gallup Pakstan



**Duane Rousselle** 

Professor of Sociology

University College of Dublin



**James Wescoat** 

Visiting Associate Aga Khan Professor **Emeritus Landscape** Architecture and Geography

> Massachusetts Institute of Technology



The FAS programme has allowed me to interact with diverse groups of students, encounter thought-provoking professors, and participate in fun-filled society activities. The uniqueness of the programme shines through its student-centric approach, which, when coupled with the warm and inviting faculty, makes the transition from high school to university rather seamless. AKU's campus life adds to the holistic university experience I have been searching for, from bonfires with my fellow classmates to exploring the hidden gems on campus that are perfect for group study sessions.

Tooba Saad
Student, Inaugural Class
Faculty of Arts and Sciences



# Fees and Financial Assistance

FAS is committed to ensuring that families with limited means are financially supported. As such, students who are selected but unable to meet the entire cost of education to study at FAS will have the opportunity to apply for financial assistance packages. Financial assistance is in the form of grant in-aid, loans and student scholarships.

Particulars	Frequency	Bachelor of Studies	
Fee Type		4 Years	
		National Students	Foreign Students
		PKR	USD
Application Fee	One time	7,000	150
Admission Fee	One time	80,000	740
Security Deposit (Refundable)	Refundable	13,000	210
Student Health Fees	Annual	23,000	150
Graduation Fee	One time	25,000	180
Student Activity Fee	Annual	4,000	30
Physical Examination	One time	17,000	120
Tuition Fee	Annual	1,930,000	14,000
Student Immunization fees	One time	8,100	
Hostel Fee*	Monthly	33,000	350

#### **NOTES:**

- 1. Residential countries include Afghanistan, Burundi, Kenya, Pakistan, Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda.
- 2. Candidates categorised as 'non-residential' are required to pay their fees in US dollars.
- 3. Tuition fees may be paid in monthly instalments.
- 4. All one-time fees must be paid at the time of admission. Applicable taxes will be charged as per Income Tax rules.

\* An additional amount of Rs. 8,000 / USD \$ 40 will be charged for students living in the on-campus hostel as air-conditioning charges. In addition, students will be billed for actual utilization of the air conditioning.



# Applying to the Faculty of Arts and Sciences

FAS will follow a two-stage admission process

## Stage One

- Candidates will be invited to apply online.
   Candidates who are writing their Higher Secondary Certificate examinations in the summer of the application year (2024) will be able to apply provisionally.
- Candidates are required to submit their Secondary and Higher Secondary School marksheets depending on their high school completion status.
- 4. All eligible applicants will write the Accuplacer Test: English as a Second Language (ESL) and the Quantitative Reasoning, Algebra, and Statistics test resources are available here:
- https://accuplacer.collegeboard.org/accuplacer/pdf/accuplacer-esl-tests-sample-questions.pdf
  https://accuplacer.collegeboard.org/accuplacer/pdf/next-generation-sample-questions-quantitative-reasoning.pdf
- 5. The Admissions Test for candidates applying to the Bachelor of Studies at the FAS will be administered at centers identified by the University in the application form.

## Stage Two

- 1. AKU Test will be a key determining factor in shortlisting candidates for Stage Two evaluation.
- 2. In addition to attending two independent interviews, shortlisted candidates will be requested to submit the following:
  - Personal statement (guiding questions will be provided). Candidates will be requested to write this prior to attending the interview.
  - One letter of recommendation from your head teacher, class coordinator or school counsellor. (This letter will follow an AKU template which will be provided).
  - Official transcripts from each college or university previously attended, with notarised English translation of documents, if the documents are in a language other than English.



## **Academic Eligibility**

Candidates following any system of education may apply to the programmes offered by the FAS, if they meet any of the eligibility requirements.

There are no specific subject requirements.

Candidates applying provisionally must submit transcripts to meet the minimum requirements of eligibility by the deadline to confirm admissions. For specific eligibility and admissions queries, email fas.query@aku.edu

For more information about admissions including eligibility criteria, visit

https://www.aku.edu/admissions/documents/admission-information-fas-bs.pdf

Timeline		
Applications Open	Sunday 22 October to Friday 15 December, 2023	
Admissions Test	Saturday 24 February, 2024	
Interviews	April/May	
First set of offers	End June	

## **Academic and Career Development**

Students are supported throughout, in studying, writing, reading, and communicating for academic purposes. Advisers are assigned to students to guide where these inputs will be necessary, for course development, the selection of majors, to process the outcomes of internships, for career counselling, and more.

## Campus Life

We have a student body that reflects the extraordinary diversity of Pakistan and its neighbours. Every FAS graduate will learn and appreciate diversity and be committed to pluralism which can form the foundation of a community where everyone thrives.

FAS students will spend their four years on our stunning 83-acre campus in Karachi. The campus boasts a world-class sports centre, with an Olympic-sized swimming pool, access to the latest technology, and beautiful gardens with water features for rest and reflection.

FAS is housed at the 17-storey University Centre and features state-of-the-art classrooms, a student-faculty lounge, a dining hall with indoor and outdoor areas, and plenty of space to study, ponder, and relax. Students will find study spaces in the library and be able to design solutions to complex global problems in the new Development Lab – an innovation hub.

Students can apply to live on-campus at our hostels or find accommodation off-site in Karachi.







#### Faculty of Arts and Sciences

University Centre, Stadium Road P. O. Box 3500 Karachi 74800, Pakistan

FAS.query@aku.edu (admissions queries)

fas@aku.edu (all other queries)

www.aku.edu/faspk

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