

Aga Khan University- FHS-PhD Programme
List of funded projects for potential PhD Candidates

Nursing Stream						
Sr. No.	Name, Email address and Department of Primary Supervisor	Supervisory Team	Title of Project	Research Funding available	Funds available until	Key Objectives of research project
1	Dr Rubina Barolia rubina.barolia@aku.edu Professor & Asst. Dean, School of Nursing and Midwifery	Drs Aziz Jiwani and Atif Waqar	Developing and testing of culturally tailored simulation based Interprofessional Clinical Education program for strengthening palliative care in Pakistan	PKR 5,823,850	2026	<p>The purpose of this project is to develop and test culturally relevant Interprofessional Clinical Education program for strengthening palliative care in Pakistan: Mixed Method Approach</p> <p>The study will address following questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Describe the views of physicians and RNs regarding future competence needs within palliative care. Develop the competence needs that will be required from physicians and RNs in palliative care during the next decade through qualitative approach. Test the feasibility of the program in palliative care in health care institution.
Pre-requisites of PhD candidate applicants (graduate qualification requirement): MSc Nursing and a year of Experience of working in palliative care.						
2	Dr Rozina Karmaliani rozina.karmaliani@aku.edu Professor, School of Nursing and Midwifery	Dr Rubina Barolia and Ms Falak Madhani	Testing Primary Care and Home-Based Service Delivery Models to Care for the Elderly	USD 5000	2026	<p>The key objectives are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To develop a comprehensive understanding of the needs of the aging population in urban and rural settings in Karachi and Gilgit-Baltistan and Chitral. To test service delivery models for the elderly which can improve access to care at home and in the community and improve health outcomes.
Pre-requisites of PhD candidate applicants (graduate qualification requirement): MSc Nursing Experience with health systems preferred. Healthcare providers such as nurses and medical doctors or pharmacists and physiotherapists as well as public health practitioners are welcome to apply.						

3	Dr Laila Ladak laila.ladak@aku.edu Assoc. Professor and Asst. Dean, School of Nursing and Midwifery	Drs Nadeem Ullah Khan, Uzma Khan and Salma Rattani	Survival, morbidity, and health related quality of life in children and adolescents with acute poisoning in low- and middle-income countries	USD 10,000	September 2027	The key objectives are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To explore the survival, morbidity, and health related quality of life in children and adolescents with acute poisoning in LMICs. To identify the predictors of the survival, morbidity, and health related quality of life in children and adolescents with acute poisoning in LMICs. To understand the long-term experiences of children and adolescents with acute poisoning in LMICs.
Pre-requisites of PhD candidate applicants (graduate qualification requirement): MSc Nursing						
4	Dr Tazeen S. Ali tazeen.ali@aku.edu Professor and Interim Dean, School of Nursing and Midwifery	Drs Rozina Karmaliani, Shireen Shehzad, Ms Farida Bibi and Mr Hussain Maqbool	What Works (II). Mainstreaming a Life Skills Education Programme To Reduce Violence Against Girls In Pakistan.	USD 5,000	2028	The key objective is: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To determine whether exposure to the adapted play-based life skills education intervention is effective in improving equitable gender norms, enhancing capacity/knowledge to identify, prevent and respond to instances of abuse, particularly sexual harassment, and improving social-emotional skills among girls of grade 6 studying in public and girls and boys in private schools (mixed; gender non-segregated) of Sindh, Pakistan.
Pre-requisites of PhD candidate applicants (graduate qualification requirement): MSc Nursing						
5	Dr Saleema Gulzar, saleema.gulzar@aku.edu Associate Professor and Director Research and Innovation, School of Nursing and Midwifery	Dr Tazeen S. Ali	Integrated Disaster Nursing Response for Public Healthcare Settings in Pakistan: A Sequential Mixed Method Approach	PKR 2,500,000	2025	The Key objectives are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To estimate the mean difference in knowledge regarding integrated disaster nursing response among healthcare providers before and after the implementation of the Integrated disaster nursing response curriculum. To explore the difference in the perceived knowledge, attitude, and practice changes among healthcare providers who attended disaster nursing response capacity-building intervention. To discover master trainers' perceptions related to the effectiveness and relevance of the curriculum in preparing healthcare providers for disaster response.

						<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To Evaluate how supervision and support provided by the research team influence the delivery of training sessions by trained healthcare providers to their peers.
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Pre-requisites of PhD candidate applicants (graduate qualification requirement): MSc Nursing

6	Dr Rafat Jan, rafat.jan@aku.edu Professor & Associate Dean, School of Nursing and Midwifery	Drs Rozina Karmaliani, Tazeen S. Ali and Laila Ladak	Foundations for health and Empowerment Project (Themes related to sexual, reproductive, maternal, newborn, adolescent health, mental health and ECD)	CAD 9,400	March 2025	<p>The Key objectives are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To conduct research relevant to the above thematic areas that will benefit the people of Gilgit, Baltistan, and Chitral. To build the capacity of Health Care Professionals in the Gilgit, Baltistan, and Chitral regions in sexual, reproductive, and adolescent health, mental health, and ECD
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Pre-requisites of PhD candidate applicants (graduate qualification requirement): MSc Nursing

7	Dr Saleema Gulzar, saleema.gulzar@aku.edu Associate Professor and Director Research and Innovation, School of Nursing and Midwifery	Drs Shariq Khoja and Tazeen S. Ali	Beyond the Brick and Mortar, Revolutionizing School Health to Promote Student Wellness through Digital Solutions at Schools in Karachi, Pakistan	PKR 5.5 million	2026	<p>The Key objectives are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To re-evaluate and recommend a new scoop for School health nursing by identifying the use of digital health tools & technology, ethical considerations, opportunities and risks and key partners. To define the role of School Health Nurses in the new Digital School Health field. To recommend new research and training needs for nurses and other stakeholders.
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Pre-requisites of PhD candidate applicants (graduate qualification requirement): MSc Nursing