



Professional Development Curriculum

AKU - GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT OFFICE

Welcome to AKU's Internship Programme

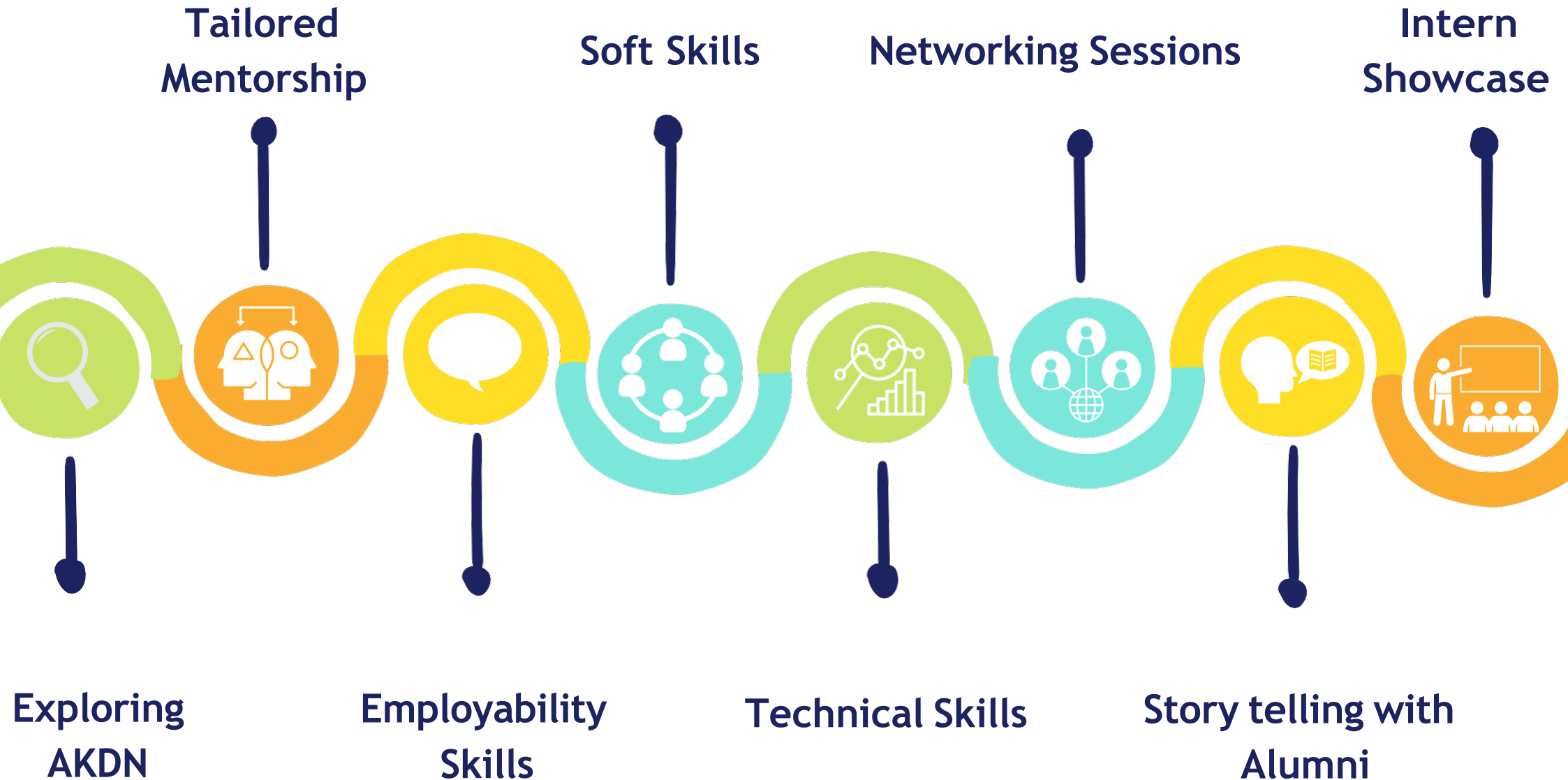
What is the Professional Development Curriculum?

It is a series of virtual sessions, workshops, webinars and networking sessions that would build awareness about the AKDN network, provide soft and technical skills to help you during and beyond this Internship Programme, facilitate in building a strong network in various work industries and help you use your knowledge and experience in your internship stream. This curriculum is designed to transform you into well-rounded researchers and practitioners. You will receive 60 hours of the professional development curriculum in 12 weeks.

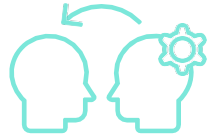
The curriculum will help you develop:



An Overview of the Curriculum



Tailored Mentorship



A fundamental part of your internship is a mentor. As a mentee, you will be provided tailored mentorship through one-on-one discussions, meetings, consistent feedback, and guidance regarding your project.

Your mentor will spend a minimum of **two hours** every week engaging with your work and facilitating you during your assigned project. This will allow you to learn at a faster pace and gain insights into your area of interest through an expert.

Since the beginning of this Programme, interns alongside their mentors have successfully completed research projects, co-authored papers, and also published their studies.

Exploring the Aga Khan Development Network (AKDN)

During these sessions, various professionals working within the network will discuss the work of AKDN, the impact of its projects, and how interns can contribute to the vision of AKDN.

From a list of the following sessions, the GEO will offer **three** sessions in every internship cycle.

Session Titles

The Philanthropy, Work and Impact of AKDN

Heritage on the Edge: How People Around the World are Protecting their Cultural Sites against Climate Change.

Covid-19 Accelerates Digital Transformation at University of Central Asia

Importance of East Africa's Ecological Heritage and Role of East African Institute

Global Citizenship, its Impact, and Importance

Employability Skills



This series comprises of informal sessions for interns to reflect over their experiences, know more about career prospects and skills needed to achieve those, and most importantly, to ask questions from our experts.

From a list of the following sessions, the GEO will offer **three** sessions in every internship cycle and **one asynchronous course**.

Session Titles

Tips to Write a Statement of Purpose or Personal Statement

Discovering Career Prospects as an Undergraduate, Graduate and Post Graduate Student

The Art of Working in a Global Pandemic

Polishing your Profile- An Insight into Resume Writing and Editing

The Elevator Pitch

Soft Skills Webinars



In all current fast paced and diversified working environments, it imperative to be consistent and to reinvent yourself depending on the workplace and projects. Thus, soft skills have become a key factor in determining the growth and success of an individual.

Through the professional development curriculum, interns will be offered four of the following soft skills webinars and one asynchronous course.

Webinar Titles

Interpersonal and Intrapersonal Communication

Finding a Balance between Critical and Creative Thinking.

Ethical Research in the Global South: Research on vs Research With.

Negotiation Strategies

Understanding the Culture of A New Workplace

Diversity and Disability Awareness

Gender Sensitivity in the Workplace

Technical Skills Workshops

Whether one's educational background is in the Natural Sciences or the Social Sciences, technical skills are an imperative component within research and practice. These technical skills vary from one profession to another, but they remain paramount.

Through the professional development curriculum, interns will be offered **three** of the following technical skills workshops and one asynchronous course.

Workshop Titles

Data Visualization and Analysis

Research Strategies - From Literature Review to Survey Questionnaires

Project Management

Designing Effective Presentations

Mapping Data through QGIS

Academic Writing - The Do's and Dont's

MS Excel (Basic and Advance)

Networking Sessions



Networking helps you build meaningful connections. These connections might be future clients, industry resources, recruiters, or individuals who are able to support you in some capacity.

Through the professional development curriculum, interns will be offered **three** of the following networking sessions.

Session Titles

Taking your First Step in the Programme by Farzana Karim - Haji

Meeting Students Across the AKDN

Getting to know the President and Provost

Creating a Bridge between AKU-IIP, AKU-VIP AND AKU-RVIP

AKDN Experts Symposium

Storytelling with Alumni

We have a network of 350+ alumni spread across four continents - Asia, Europe, Africa and North America -, who have been placed in 14 countries during their internship cycle.

Through the professional development curriculum, interns will be offered **three** of the following sessions.

Session Titles

Adjusting in a New Environment - The Intern Perspective

The Long-lasting Impacts of AKU-IIP

Alumni share their Achievements

Meeting Alumni who have worked on SDG's.

Developing a Meaningful Relationship with Mentors and the Cohort

Intern Showcase



Intern showcase marks the end of your internship period as interns share their experiences, key learnings, research projects, and reflect on their journeys.

This showcase is an opportunity for interns to present their work in front of their colleagues, the Global Engagement Office and mentors.

We recommend all interns to be a part of this, so they can show us the impact they have created and also to offer them a platform which can act as a springboard in publishing their studies or finding colleagues who would like to become a part of their projects.

Skillsoft Percipio Asynchronous Courses



Interns will be provided a licensed version of the Skillsoft percipio platform. You are required to complete a minimum of three courses from the following list.

Please note, you are required to complete one course from each category and email your certificate to aku.iip@aku.edu.

Courses for Employability Skills

Keeping your skillset current in the Digital

Economy Championing Digital Transformation

Getting Your Pitch Heard

Courses for Soft Skills

Becoming a DEI Agent and Ally

Cultivating Cross-functional Team Collaboration

Investing in Self Awareness

Courses for Technical Skills

Product Management: Market Research Basics

Basic Navigation and Tools - Adobe InDesign

Custom and Conditional Formatting in MS Excel

Breakdown of Curriculum in Hours

	Professional Development Curriculum	Frequency of Session/Workshop/ Webinar	Time duration per session/ course	Total Number of Hours
1	Tailored Mentorship	2*12 weeks	2 hours	24
2	Exploring the Aga Khan Development Network Sessions	Session 2.1 Session 2.2 Session 2.3	75 minutes each	3.75
3	Employability Skills Session	Session 3.1 Session 3.2 Session 3.4 Asynchronous Course	75 minutes each Course: 2 Hours	7
4	Soft Skills Webinars	Session 4.1 Session 4.2 Session 4.3 Session 4.4 Asynchronous Course	Session: 90 minutes each Course = 2 Hours	8
5	Technical Skills Workshops	Session 5.1 Session 5.2 Session 5.3 Asynchronous Course	Session: 90 minutes each Course = 2 Hours	8
6	Networking Sessions	Session 6.1 Session 6.2 Session 6.3	75 minutes each	3.75
7	Storytelling with Alumni	Session 7.1 Session 7.2 Session 7.3	75 minutes each	3.75
8	Intern Showcase	Session 8.1	2 Hours	2
				60.25

To receive a certificate, interns are required to attend all sessions and complete relevant courses totaling up to 60 hours of professional development.



**We look forward
to having you
with us!**