

ANNUAL REPORT

March 2022-23



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THE AGA KHAN UNIVERSITY



AKU



The Office of Student Experience

student.experience@aku.edu

aku.edu/students

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Dr. Laila Akbarali

Interim Vice Provost, Student
Affairs and Services &
University Registrar

Dear AKU Community,

Despite facing transitional challenges, my team has worked tirelessly to provide our students with diverse opportunities to enrich their experience at AKU. We are proud of our students' various achievements and accolades in both academic and sports domains.

We look forward to the future and have identified several strategic goals and objectives to guide our work in the coming year. These include enhancing the accessibility and effectiveness of our services, fostering a culture of leadership and innovation, strengthening our engagement with external partners, and expanding our outreach efforts to reach more students to make them more inclusive. We are committed to pursuing these objectives and providing our students with an exceptional university experience.

I want to thank the entire Office of Student Experience team for their dedication, hard work, and commitment to our mission. I would also like to thank our stakeholders, including students, staff, and faculty members, for their unwavering support and cooperation in making this year a success.



Danish Imtiaz

Associate Director, Office of
Student Experience

Student Affairs and Services

Dear AKU Community,

It gives me great pleasure to present the annual report of the Office of Student Experience. This report is a comprehensive review of the significant accomplishments and activities of the past year.

It has been an exciting and successful year for us. We have achieved many milestones, which are highlighted in this report. Our focus has been on enhancing the student experience, and we have done this by introducing new initiatives and strengthening existing ones.

The year's major highlights include the successful launch of the President's Challenge for Climate Solutions, which aims to promote sustainable practices among students. We also had a Unified Student Orientation for all incoming students of 2023 and a Student Talent Showcase at the AKU's 40th Anniversary Celebrations.

We are also proud to introduce new initiatives such as Student Townhalls, the AKU Student Leadership Development Bootcamp, Fundraising for Flood Relief through Falah Bakesale, the AKU Rowing Club Launch, and the International Student Research Conference 2023. Furthermore, we achieved several accolades and achievements in sports, including the Inter-School Regatta, HEC Intervarsity Men's Basketball Championship, and HEC Intervarsity Men's Volleyball Championship. We also conducted leadership sessions for the MBBS students, managed Work & Study programmes, and held student elections and social orientations.

We hope this report provides insight into our activities and accomplishments. We welcome your feedback and suggestions.

We will continue striving to enhance the student experience at AKU and ensure our students have all the opportunities to grow and develop.

President's Challenge for Climate Solution

WASTE NOTHING

“ The actions we take as individuals can seem small relative to the scale of the problem. But large-scale change becomes possible only when many individuals share common values rooted in common experiences. The first step is simple: to feel in your heart that you must contribute to the fight. Each of you has experienced that feeling. And you have begun to act upon it.

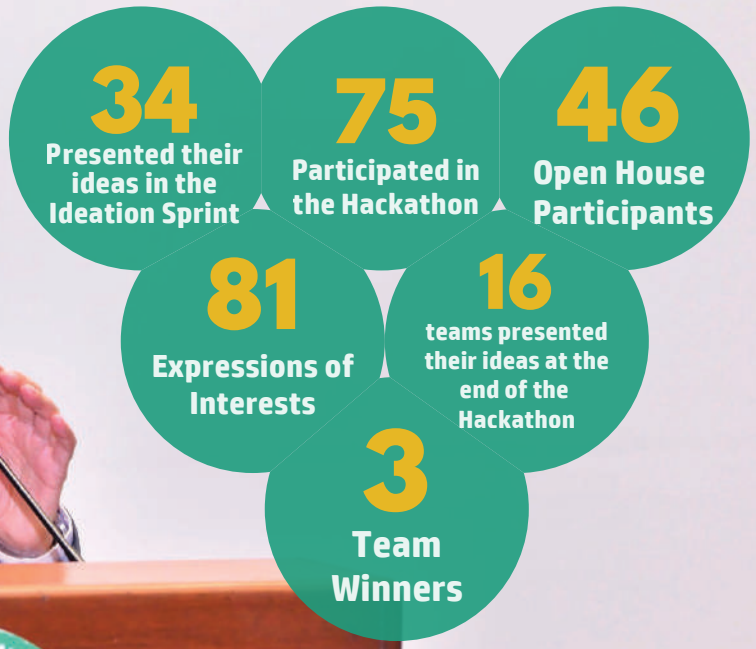
I urge you: don't stop. ”

**PRINCE HUSSAIN
AGA KHAN**

The President's Challenge for Climate Solutions was launched in 2022 to encourage AKU students globally to think critically about climate change and serve as change agents for climate action. The Challenge aimed to educate, inspire, and encourage students to engage with climate issues and submit innovative and viable ideas. The theme for the inaugural year was "Wasting Nothing," prompting mindful consumption of resources such as water, electricity, food, and time.

The Challenge was executed with the support of various AKU departments, including the Office of Student Affairs, CCIT, the Office of Environment and Sustainability, and the Office of Communications. The Challenge process was divided into phases: an Expression of Interest, an Ideation Sprint, a Hackathon, and a Schools Competition. The Challenge concluded with a hybrid Closing Ceremony where student teams presented their ideas, and AKU's President expressed the importance of acting on climate change.





Winning Ideas from the Challenge

Collection of plastics and recycling into durable products - **Team Relast**
 Ridesharing app and leveraging people-based solutions - **Team Climatica**
 Eco-friendly, biodegradable sanitary pads - **Team ThinkGreen**

Winning Ideas from the School Challenge

Conserving water using tap aerators - **BVS Parsi High School**
 Recycling of cigarette butts - **AKHSS Karimabad**
 Making seed paper to address deforestation - **Bahria College Karsaz**



Unified Student Orientation 2023

The Office of Student Experience - Pakistan (OSE-P) conducted its first-ever Unified Orientation Session for the School of Nursing and Midwifery, Medical College, and the Institute for Educational Development students. The two-day orientation, held on February 2-3, 2023, was the first in-person orientation since 2019 and welcomed new students to the AKU family.

The AKU Leadership, including the Deans of the respective institutes and the Interim Vice Provost - Student Affairs and Services and University Registrar, delivered welcome notes and provided detailed information on AKU Policies and Guidelines, the Student Code of Conduct, wellness services, and the Registrar's Office. The orientation also included booths and stalls from different student societies, the Student Record Office, Student Finance Office, Student Health and Office of Counselling and Wellness Services, and Hostels. Extracurricular activities, including a Campus Tour through a Scavenger Hunt, a Sports Evening, and a Bonfire event, were organised by the Office of Student Experience in collaboration with student societies to provide students with an entertaining and informative experience.

In addition, the Office of Student Experience organised two orientations for the incoming MBBS Class of 2027. The first was an online orientation held over three days and attended by 100 students, while the second was an in-person orientation for the same number of students. Both orientations aimed to familiarise students with the range of services available and orient them to student life. The in-person orientation provided an opportunity for students to meet each other and interact with their peers.



AKU's 40th Anniversary Celebrations

Student Talent Showcase

AKU's 40th-anniversary celebration week concluded with the Student Talent Showcase, an unforgettable night of extraordinary talent and creativity. Our talented students shone brightly, from singing to dancing, comedy to drama. The event was attended by more than 1000 people in attendance including faculty, staff, and students.

Princess Zahra Aga Khan graced the occasion as the Chief Guest, alongside AKU President Dr Sulaiman Shahabuddin and other university leadership. We are grateful to everyone who helped make this event successful and to all our guests for their presence and support.



Student Townhalls

The Office of Student Experience organised a successful town hall for the students of AKU's Medical College, School of Nursing and Midwifery, and Institute of Educational Development, with over 300 students in attendance. The event was hosted by Dr Laila Akbarali, the Interim Vice Provost – of Student Affairs and Services. Associate Director, Student Experience, Danish Imtiaz, introduced the Provost Experiential Learning Fund and gave an overview of the program and eligibility criteria.



Amin Keashwani from the Registrar's Office also addressed the updated policy on outstanding accounts with the university and the launch of the online facilitation system for student services.

Mehrunissa Kabani and Tabassum Nadeem, Managers Hostel, share the hostel vacating policy with the students. The town hall allowed students to voice their questions and concerns, and the Office of Student Experience promised to conduct more such events.

Fundraising for Flood Relief Falah Bake Sale

Aga Khan University (AKU) recently launched a flood relief camp at various locations in Sindh to assist communities affected by floods. AKU students organised a fundraising campaign through a Falah Bakesale to support this effort. The Bakesale was a tremendous success, with students generating nearly PKR.—200,000 by selling baked goods. The funds raised were utilised to provide essential relief supplies and support to those affected by the floods. This initiative is a testament to the generosity and community spirit of AKU students, who are committed to positively impacting the lives of those in need.

International Student Research Conference

The Student Research Forum organised the International Student Research Conference 2023, a hybrid conference attended by 450 students from AKU and national and international universities. Dr Saad Bin Umar, an AKU alumnus from the Class of 1998, was the keynote speaker. The Conference was organised with the Office of Student Experience and Dean Medical College.

AKU Student Leadership Development Bootcamp

The AKU Graduate School of Media and Communication conducted a leadership development boot camp for the 2021-2022 student leadership body from the Medical College, Graduate School of Media and Communications, School of Nursing and Midwifery, and Institute of Educational Development at the Aga Khan University across all campuses. The training aimed to help student leaders learn about authentic leadership represents the students' voice and contributes to a meaningful student experience at AKU. The course structure consisted of five modules with diverse topics and sessions, and each module contained between two to six hours of learning.

The learning was spread over several months, and sessions were conducted synchronously using various teaching and learning tools. The purpose of the training was to enable the student government to lead authentically and unleash its potential to influence others. Overall, this leadership development boot cap was a valuable opportunity for AKUSA student leaders to enhance their leadership capabilities and contribute positively to the AKU community. More than 30 student leaders registered and participated in this training programme.



Launch of the AKU Rowing Club

Aga Khan University (AKU) recently launched its Rowing Club, an exciting new addition to the range of extracurricular activities available to students. The club is designed to allow students to learn and develop their rowing skills in a supportive and inclusive environment. The founding members organised an orientation session introducing students to the club and its activities. During the session, students were given an over view of the club's activities and society and a forward-looking activity plan. The orientation session was well-received by students, who were enthusiastic about the opportunity to participate in the club's activities and develop their rowing skills.



Leadership Sessions for MBBS Students

Two leadership sessions were conducted for MBBS students. The first was a virtual session titled "Leading in a Quantum World" conducted for the third year MBBS students on January 6, 2023, with guest speaker Sahib Karim Khan, a consultant and trainer at TPE Consultants. The session was moderated by Danish Imtiaz, Associate Director of the Office of Student Experience, Pakistan (OSEP).

The second was an in-person session titled "Responsive Leadership" for second year MBBS students held on March 15, 2023, led by Danish Imtiaz, Associate Director, Office of Student Experience. Both sessions focused on developing leadership skills for medical professionals and provided valuable insights and strategies.



Campus Tour Orientation for Global Encounters Visitors

The Campus Tour organised by Aga Khan University's Student Synergy Group for the Global Encounter participants was an exciting event that brought together around 60 students and facilitators from 15 nationalities. The 90-minute Scavenger Hunt activity was the event's highlight, as participants explored the AKU campus while solving clues and completing challenges.

The event allowed participants to connect and explore AKU's unique culture and values. The Student Synergy Group did an excellent job organising the event and ensuring everyone had a wonderful time. We hope this experience has left an impression on everyone and inspired them to explore new opportunities.

Inter-School Regatta

The AKU Rowing Society recently participated in the Inter-School Regatta Competition organised by the Karachi Boat Club and achieved remarkable success. The team of AKU students demonstrated their exceptional skills, teamwork, and dedication in the competition, earning 14 gold, 6 silver, and 2 bronze medals.



The students' outstanding performance in the competition is a testament to their hard work and commitment to their sport. Their success reflects the spirit of excellence central to the AKU community, and the university takes immense pride in its achievements. The AKU Rowing Society's success in the Inter-School Regatta Competition is a shining example of the university's commitment to nurturing talent and fostering a culture of excellence in sports.

HEC Intervarsity Men's Volleyball Championship

The AKU Men's Volleyball Team participated in the HEC Intra University Competition, organised by the Sir Syed University of Engineering and Technology under the AEGIS of the Higher Education Commission (HEC). The team performed outstandingly in their first match, defeating NED and securing their spot in the semi-finals.



The team's success in the competition reflects their hard work, dedication, and commitment to their sport. The university takes immense pride in the Men's Volleyball Team's achievements and is confident that they will continue to bring glory to the institution in future competitions.

HEC Intervarsity Men's Basketball Championship

The AKU Men's Basketball Team participated in the HEC Intra University Competition organised by the Karachi Institute of Engineering and Technology under the AEGIS of the Higher Education Commission (HEC). The team performed excellently throughout the competition, securing a walkover against Indus University in the initial rounds. The team also won the semi-final match against NED University, displaying their excellent teamwork and skill. Although they lost the final match against IBA, the AKU Men's Basketball Team demonstrated their commitment, dedication, and sportsmanship throughout the competition. The team's achievement in the HEC Intra University Competition is a testament to their hard work and perseverance and is a source of pride for the AKU community.



Festivities & Celebrations

AKU students celebrate various occasions and festivities throughout the year, which adds to the cultural diversity and inclusivity of the university. Different student societies such as Synergy - SONAM, Arts & Culture Committees of all entities, Music Society etc.,

- The BScN Class of 2022 organised a Dhol celebration on the last day of their final exams in the School of Nursing. Similarly, Arts & Culture Committee - SONAM arranged a dholki celebration for the Graduation Week Celebration, a competition among batches to put the best dholki for their batch mates.
- The Arts and Culture Committee celebrated the Eid Milan get-together - Post RN BScN, where post-RN BScN - Year 1 and 2 students participated. Similarly, Grand Iftar was organised for MBBS students by the Arts and Culture Committee (MBBS) in collaboration with OSEP and for SONAM students by the Arts and Culture Committee (SONAM) and Student Synergy (SONAM) in collaboration with OSEP and Dean, SONAM.the Office of Student Experience, Pakistan (OSEP)
- One of the events organised by Synergy - SONAM was the Navroz Celebration. The event was held on Navroz, and around 500 students participated. The students performed, and mehndi was arranged for female students. Similarly, the Holi Celebration was organised by Arts & Culture Committee - MBBS, with around 250 MBBS students participating. It was celebrated as part of Diversity and Inclusion.



- The Arts and Culture Committee (MBBS) also organised an event to celebrate Pakistan Day, where all MBBS Year 1 to 5 students participated, and the Dean of Medical College also attended the program.
- AKU students celebrate various events throughout the year, which brings cultural diversity and inclusivity to the university. Different student societies organise these events, and students from multiple programs participate. These events help students connect, understand other cultures and foster community.
- Arts & Culture Committee – SONAM and MBBS 2025 celebrated Daandiya Night, where all SONAM students and MBBS Class of 2025 students participated. It was a traditional event organised for the students.



Navroz Ceremony at the SONAM Courtyard



Annual Quad Closing Ceremony by the MBBS Class of 2022

Work Study Program

The Work Study Programme has been a great success at the university, as evident by the number of students placed in various departments throughout the academic year. During January 2023 placement period, 274 students were given the opportunity to work in departments such as the Call Centre, Registrar Office, Counselling Services and Wellness Office, Legal Office, and CSSD. The placements allowed the students to develop professional skills, which will be invaluable in their future careers.

Similarly, in July 2022, 238 students were placed in the same departments, continuing the trend of successful placements. In addition, 63 students were given job orientation at the Call Centre, providing them with valuable insight into the world of customer service.

The academic programme-wise summary provides an overview of the summer and winter break placements. During the summer break, 124 students were placed in CSSD, Call Centre, and the Quality and Patient Safety Department. During the winter break, 274 students were placed in CSSD, Call Centre, Registrar's Office, Counselling Services and Wellness Office, and Legal Office. Most of the placements were of the BScN students (392), followed by MBBS (3), MSc.N (2), and MHPM (1). These placements allowed the students to gain valuable experience and provided the university with an extra set of hands during busy periods.

Students placed for on-campus Internships: 398

BSCN	392
MSCN	2
MHPM	1
MBBS	3

Department of Placements

Center Sterile Service Department	266
Call Center	63
Registrar Office	63
Counselling Services & Wellness Office	2
Legal Office	1
Quality & Patient Safety Department	3

Student Elections & Society Organizations

The Class Elections, organised by the Office of the Student Experience, was a popular event that saw the participation of 500 students from different programmes, particularly MBBS students. The Society Elections category activity was held on separate days for various committees, giving contestants an equal opportunity to speak for three minutes and deliver their speeches. The voting process was conducted online, allowing students to vote easily. The event was a great success and provided an excellent platform for students to showcase their leadership qualities and participate in the democratic process of electing representatives for their respective classes.

The student societies organised a series of orientation programs to welcome incoming students and familiarise them with the society's functions and opportunities for engagement.



The Student Research Forum (SRF) - SONAM conducted their first orientation program, with 160 participants from Post RN, BScN, and MSc.N Year 1 programmes. The orientation included an overview of the SRF and interactive group activities. Similarly, the Falah - MBBS Student Society organised an orientation for new inductions into the society, with 50 MBBS students participating. The Student Research Forum (SRF) - SONAM also conducted another orientation for the BSc.N and Post RN Year 1 programme students. These society orientations were informative and engaging, helping students get involved and make the most of their student society experience.

AKU 40th Year Celebrations

Aga Khan University celebrated its 40th anniversary with various activities organised by the University management in support of student volunteers. Two such events were the AKU 40th Year Identity Revealing and the Sweets Distribution. In the former event, 10 student volunteers acted as ushers for the event where AKU's 40th-year identity was revealed. The university's news page covered the event. The latter event involved the university leadership's presence during the sweet's distribution for all students, faculty, and staff. Approximately 10 to 15 students participated in this activity, organised by the student leaders' society. These events reflect the community's enthusiasm for AKU's 40th year and the commitment of its students to making it a memorable celebration.



Icebreakers and Energizers

Various ice-breaking and energizing events were organised by different student societies at different levels for multiple academic programmes. These events were aimed at helping incoming students to mingle with their seniors, provide a traditional welcome, energize and engage the students in various activities, and promote leadership roles and networking. Some events included Ice Breaking, Welcome Party, Flash Mob, Bonfire, Antakshiri & Musical Night, Campus Tour, and multiple game stalls. The events were organised by Student Synergy (MBBS) and the Arts and Culture Committees, among others. The number of participants ranged from 40 to 350 in each event, and the program-wise stats varied from MBBS Students to BScN, Post RN, MSc.N, and IED students. These events allowed students to socialise, connect with others, and enjoy their campus life.

Events, Activities and Get-Togethers

Various student events and activities were organised throughout the year. The purpose of these events varied from generating funds for student societies to promoting mental well-being and providing opportunities for students to showcase their talents. Some of the prominent events and their details are shared below:

Falah Bake Sale: This event was organised by Falah, a student society at MC, to raise funds. The bake sale included food stalls and fun activities for all MBBS students.

Quad Closing by MBBS Class of 2022: This event was organised by the graduating MBBS class on the last day of the University. It was attended by MBBS students, staff, and faculty, including the Dean. It is a traditional event that marks the end of the academic year.

Annual Night - MBBS: This is a traditional annual event organised by the ACC-MBBS. It was revamped after 13 years and was attended by all MBBS students and faculty members. Students presented drama, dance, and song performances, followed by dinner.

Presentation by Research Student: The Student Research Forum at Medical College arranged a research talk, which John Hopkins MPH Students presented. About 50 students attended the conference.

Falah Bonfire: The annual Falah Bonfire was organised by Falah for all MBBS students. The purpose was to generate funds for society, which were raised through games and food stalls. Students participated in various competitions to showcase their talents, and the winner was from the Class of 2025.

Movie Night: The graduating BScN class arranged a movie night which about 100 students attended.

Debate Competition: Another event the AKU Publication and Literary Society organised was the Debate Competition, attended by all AKU students.





Theatre Performance: Falah (SONAM) organised a theatre performance where BScN students showcased their acting talents. The purpose was to raise funds for Falah.

Falah Bake Sale: Falah (Medical College) organised another bake sale to generate funds for the society. The bake sale also included some fun and games activities for students.

Class Beach Trip: The ACC MBBS 2026 class went to Hawks Bay for a batch picnic attended by 75 students.

Art Workshop: Student Synergy (Medical College) organised an Arts Workshop focusing on the mental well-being of Medical College students. About 35 students participated in the workshop.

Class Outing: ACC BScN Year 4 organised a class outing for their class at Wild Venture Water Park at Superhighway. About 100 BScN year final-year students participated in the event.

Fundraising: Falah (SONAM) organised a sports activity to raise funds for AKU Flood relief, attended by 150 BScN students.

Bait Bazi: The AKU Publication and Literary Society organised Bait Bazi, attended by 250 AKU students.

Farewell Events

Several Farewell events were organised at AKU for various classes across the university:

- The Farewell of MS Epi-Bio students was attended by 35 participants, including students and faculty members.
- The MPhil BBS Farewell and Welcome event was organised by MPhil BBS students and attended by faculty and staff of the BBS department.
- The MHPM Farewell Get-together was organised for 55 MHPM students.
- The Farewell for Class of 2022 event was a grand affair attended by 450 students, organised by the Arts & Culture Committee-SONAM to bid farewell to their seniors, with the presence of incoming and outgoing deans of SONAM and faculty members.
- The Farewell for the MBBS Class of 2022 was graciously hosted by Dean Adil Haider, with faculty and members of the Office of Student Affairs & Services amongst the invitees.



Disciplinary Committee Proceedings

The Disciplinary Committee has handled six cases this year. The cases include social media behaviour, non-compliance with university policies and directives, disruption of academic proceedings, and general academic misconduct.

The Committee reviewed each case and taken necessary actions to maintain a respectful and conducive educational environment. The Disciplinary Committee ensures that all students adhere to the university's policies and codes of conduct. These disciplinary cases demonstrate the University's commitment to maintaining high standards of conduct and upholding its policies.

Sports Roundup

AKU Sports Society has been actively organising sports events to encourage students' physical activity and promote healthy competition. Here is a roundup of some of the sports events that took place recently:

- **Intra-batch Cricket Tournament:** AKU Sports Society organised a 2-day intra-batch cricket tournament at the sports center for all MBBS students.
- **Sports Day:** AKU Sports Society organised a Sports Day for all SONAM students. Around 400 students participated in the event from BScN, Post RN BScN and MSc.N programmes.
- **Bikeathon:** Students went on a 40 km bike ride across Karachi in an endurance cycling event. Around 70-80 students participated in the event.
- **HEC Intervarsity Cricket Championship:** AKU Men's Cricket Team participated in the HEC Cricket Tournament organised by DOW University of Health Sciences. The team comprised 16 BScN and MBBS students.
- **Inter Batch Futsal Tournament:** It was a 3-day event organised at the futsal court with the participation of 100 BScN students.
- **Inter Batch Volleyball Tournament:** It was a 2-day outdoor volleyball tournament with the participation of 100 MBBS students
- **Dodgeball game:** AKU Sports Society organised dodgeball games for MBBS Year 1 to 5 students. There were two separate events with the participation of 100 and 150 students, respectively.
- **Cricket Fixture:** AKU Sports Society organised a class sports activity of cricket with the participation of 100 MBBS 2025 and MBBS 2026 students.
- **Intra-batch Cricket Tournament:** AKU Sports Society organises a 2-day intra-batch cricket tournament at the sports center for MBBS Class of 2022 and MBBS Class of 2026 students.





- **Dean's Intra University Cricket Tournament:** Students from all entities registered their class teams and participated in the event. The winners of the women's teams were MBBS-XI, while the BScN-2023 team lifted the winner's trophy in the men's category.
- **Cricket Match Screening Pakistan Vs Sri Lanka:** The event was organised in collaboration with OSEP & Sports Center for all students, inviting staff and faculty members to the Sports Center Courtyard. Around 300 students participated in the event.
- **Sports Evening:** Arts and Culture Committee (MBBS Class of 2024) organised a class sports activity with the participation of 85 MBBS 2024 students.

The Office of Student Experience



Danish Imtiaz
Associate Director
danish.imtiaz@aku.edu



Amin Lakhani
Manager
amin.lakhani@aku.edu



Talha Nadeem
Communications Specialist, SAS
talha.nadeem@aku.edu



Shadan Shoukat
Associate
shadan.shoukat@aku.edu

The Office of Student Experience

Student Services, University Centre, Ground Floor
Stadium Road, P.O. Box 3500, Karachi 74800, Pakistan
EMAIL: student.experience@aku.edu
PHONE: 021 3486 9078 | 9095 | 4535