

IU BULLETIN

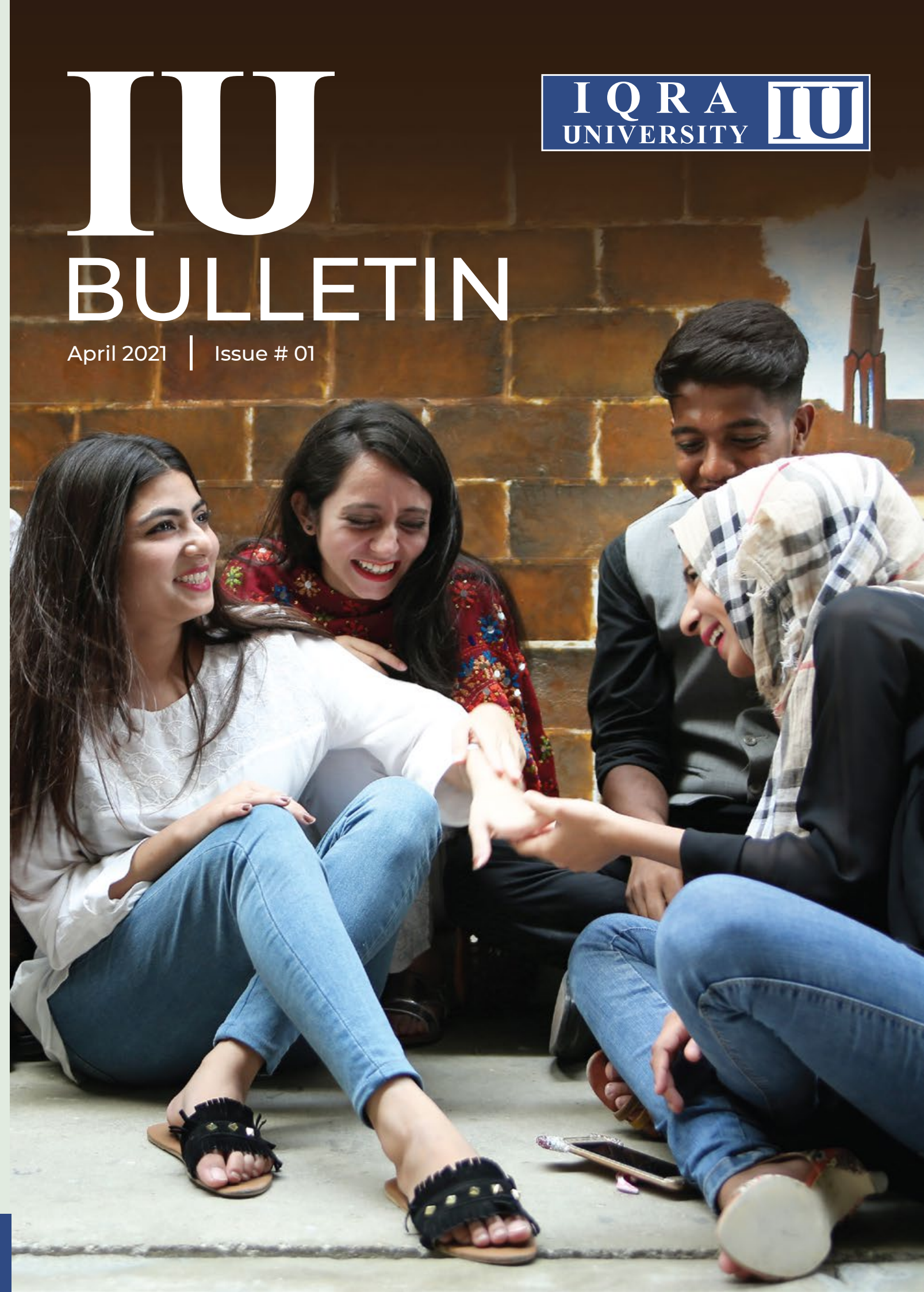
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MESSAGE FROM THE VICE CHANCELLOR

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Despite the challenging circumstances at the start of this year, we are very proud of the progress Iqra University has made with the help of its faculty members, staff and students. We have managed to serve the community, meet our growth targets and accomplish our vision and mission objectives while following the academic plan in the midst of the pandemic. The faculty at Iqra University has made commendable progress through their efforts to motivate and encourage student engagement.

The past few months have been a time of monumental achievements for Iqra University. I would like to reiterate our goals as a community: the University will strive to achieve innovation, creativity, knowledge and community engagement through quality teaching and research. We have always put our students first, and we will continue to do so by providing the best possible learning experience for all in an affordable and financially sustainable environment while ensuring high quality of education and delivering globally competitive outcomes for our students.

”

Prof. Dr. Wasim Qazi



Life during the **NEW NORMAL**

THE RETURN TO FACE-TO-FACE CLASSES SLOWS DOWN THE GROWTH OF EDUCATIONAL GAPS

While the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic has spread across the world, the education centers have taken the hardest hit globally. The emerging powers in higher education, China and South Korea, were among the first countries affected by the pandemic. The immediate actions were practically the same for world-class universities, technical schools, and all kinds of higher education institutions: close campuses, send students home, provide distance education whenever possible, and accept the loss of an academic semester where there is no possibility of providing distance education.

Only in a few countries was it possible for the higher education sector to respond with a well-prepared and well-informed solution for the sudden closure of its physical facilities. So today, majority of formally enrolled higher education students worldwide have been affected. In effect, these students are serving as subjects of a global experiment, with a range of modalities being tested (with varying levels of effectiveness and quality) for the continued provision of higher education.

Three main consequences quickly became visible in the first wave of changes forced by the pandemic: the educational activities were interrupted, the digital divide exposed the socioeconomic inequality in distance education, and underserved and at-risk students did not return to campuses when universities reopened.

Dr. Shams Idrees, Professor at Iqra University, underscores the need to keep students connected to the school to access quality teaching and learning, regardless of their socioeconomic background or public/private sector school status. Constant contact with teachers and classmates is critical for students' learning, growth and development.

Although majority of students are receiving some type of distance education during the pandemic, its access and quality depend on the resources available to study at home, which are unevenly distributed. This implies that the most vulnerable children and adolescents are at risk of suffering learning losses.

Online and distance education requires a considerable level of preparation and adaptation from higher education institutions to ensure that students can successfully and effectively learn through the online medium. Students also need to possess a high level of technical capacity, equipment, and infrastructure which is simply not the reality for many students worldwide. Therefore, the shift to distance education has left millions of students with no options available to continue their studies after leaving their campuses.

Recognizing these challenges early-on allowed Iqra University to design interventions that mitigated the impact of the pandemic allowing students to smoothly resume their



“It is essential to keep students connected to the school and access quality teaching and learning, regardless of their socioeconomic background or public/private sector school status. Constant contact with teachers and classmates is critical for students’ learning, growth and development.”

Dr. Shams Idrees
Professor

studies. Teachers were trained to teach using the online medium, the best online learning management system in the world was acquired, and special measures were taken to facilitate the students affected by the pandemic. Iqra University has truly emerged as a higher education leader in Pakistan once again during the pandemic.

Achieving equality in higher education is challenging, even in the best of times. The crisis triggered by COVID-19, and possibly exacerbated by the recession, will undoubtedly put more pressure on the most vulnerable. Stakeholders preparing for the equity in higher education should start now by identifying and engaging with students and communities at risk to understand and respond with support to help them continue their studies. This crisis has the potential to widen inequalities in higher education globally.

It is essential to plan and implement interventions that improve the persistence and retention of students across the world. This is a task for governments, institutions, and development partners, as well as for people in general. While higher education institutions are the first line of support for at-risk students, governments need to supplement their efforts through targeted policies, frameworks, and funding geared towards achieving equality.



Life at IU in the New Normal

It is difficult to believe that the first month of our spring semester of 2021 has almost passed. Last year was extremely challenging, but with everyone back at work in the 'new normal', we are inspired and are looking forward to new and exciting experiences.

Our classes have started following the Hybrid learning model (simultaneous online and face-to-face learning). We will meet face-to-face during this time as per designated schedules. IU is carefully following National Command & Operation Center (NCO) directives to ensure our students, staff, and stakeholders' safety. Protective

equipment such as masks, hand sanitizers, and disinfectants are available on campus to ensure everyone's health and well-being. By doing your part, off-campus and on-campus in educational or extracurricular activities and maintaining social distancing protocols, you can help minimize the risk of exposure to COVID-19.

As we gradually transition back to campus for face-to-face learning under certain restrictions, it is good to see the students' anticipation, excitement, joy, and enthusiasm. The willingness to learn and the need to socially connect are evident with students' active participation in events, such as the Welcome Party for newcomers, the Open House, and the PUBG LAN Tournament Spring 2021. Similarly, the teachers who have always

responded to students' needs with compassion and extra efforts are glad to have restored the "human connection" missing from virtual classes. Teachers are all geared up to support IU students in every possible way in the ongoing circumstances, while assuring students that 'We have your back, and we are in this together.'

Lastly, in this 'new normal', let us all reflect, examine our practices and identify where we can make changes to add value. With challenges, multiple opportunities also arise, so work hard, make your voices heard, and keep striving for success with your teachers' support. We wish you all the very best for a productive and stimulating semester.

In the 'new normal', IU continues to provide a roadmap for exceptional educational, research, and student engagement programs. It is time for us as the IU family to rebuild relationships and return to our core business of teaching and learning with zeal and positivity.

Mobility in Higher Education

A Catalyst for Resilience and Renewal

By Noreen Zafar

With a clear vision of the myriad benefits of academic mobility and the rich and diverse learning environment, Iqra University, the finest higher education institute in Pakistan, has adopted globalization with the concept of 'academic freedom' to bridge the gap between Pakistan's academia and the rest of the world.

The enormous impact that internationalization has had on national universities over time is undeniable. In the last decade, cross-border research collaborations have led to considerable advances in science and health, engineering and technology, and the social and business sciences. The primary industries have managed to expand thanks to the possibility of hiring the best professionals from universities around the world.

The campuses have also become platforms where committed and ambitious young people from multidisciplinary and multicultural backgrounds come together and create startups that revolutionize the market. Through scholarship programs and new online formats, universities like Iqra University have also generated a significant impact, facilitating students beyond their borders. Nothing can replace the enriching learning and teaching environment that has led to the internationalization of higher education institutions.

International academic mobility in all its variants has experienced significant growth, but it has also suffered many setbacks. Although the impact of political and

international programs on higher education institutions has been constant over time, the sector has witnessed growing tensions around mobility due to the rise of populism, nationalist tendencies, and harsh public speeches against immigration in the recent years.

The current COVID-19 pandemic has disrupted higher education as we know it and has called into question many universities' educational models. It remains to be seen to what extent cross-border mobility will be affected by this new paradigm. However, universities are already registering significant decreases in foreign students' enrollment and international teachers' recruitment. Training programs abroad and other cross-border activities for students and teachers have also been suspended.

Despite these setbacks, Iqra University has created new opportunities for education and cross-border collaborations through technology. IU has taken COVID-19 as an opportunity to restart and redesign academic mobility, making it more inclusive and environmentally more sustainable. Sustainability is a global priority, and you will need solutions globally. By committing to educate responsible and globally-minded students, universities will help weather this crisis and contribute to constructing a more sustainable and equitable world.

Iqra University is committed to the following elements of a shared vision:

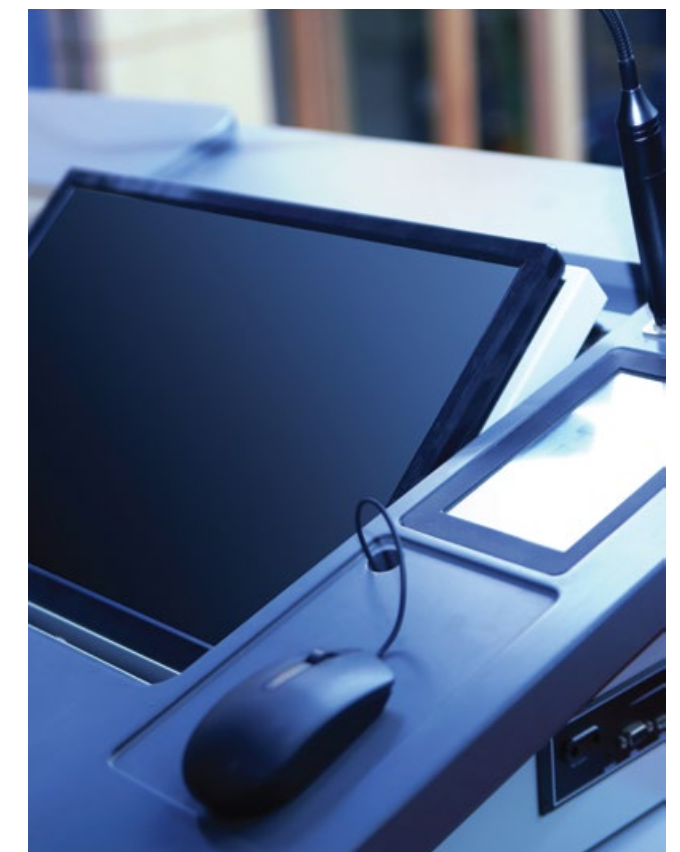
- A guaranteed cross-border collaboration and promotion of people with diverse talents and a global mindset focusing on sustainability.
- The maintenance and promotion of knowledge exchanges across borders for the benefit of the collective well-being of society.
- Leveraging technology in higher education to facilitate maximum interconnection levels and explore ecologically sustainable and equitable ways for cross-border movements.
- Collaborative efforts within the higher education ecosystem to streamline

cross-border flows of talent and knowledge.

- Global collaboration to establish effective health protocols that ensure safety on university campuses while facilitating international mobility.
- Strong policies, actions, and activities based on diversity and inclusion in all our educational institution.

By setting a constant example, we will foster and promote much-needed tolerance, respect, and equality in all of our academic communities and in the higher education sector as a whole.

Right now, there is a long list of pressing concerns on the tables of most universities, and inevitably concessions will have to be made. However, Iqra University is working hard to ensure that our campuses are safe for our professors, students, and staff, applying the necessary protocols and taking the appropriate measures to reduce risks and pave the way towards the full recovery of our academic activity. However, in the process, we must not lose sight of the importance of keeping collaboration and mobility alive, even as we adjust to our new reality.



RANKED #1
PRIVATE SECTOR UNIVERSITY BY CPEC

Blackboard
learn+

Blackboard
collaborate

STUDENT PeRSPECTive

‘WE ARE THRILLED TO
BE BACK ON CAMPUS.’

From the Department of Media Studies, Alina was among the first to return to campus on March 1st. With the smile hidden behind the mask, she did not hesitate to say that she is happy about returning to the University: ‘Meeting with classmates and having a space to study have been the most essential things for me in this new normal.’

It is commendable that Iqra University has provided the facilities so that the classes can be conducted both on campus and virtually, complying with the all the Covid-19 SOPs. The facility to use the campus laboratories during the pandemic has made it possible for students to complete their research projects on time.

‘The experience has been quite positive, as the safety protocols are being implemented in letter and spirit. This is why we invite the entire community to return to campus, taking care of themselves and others,’ says Maaz Khan, Manager Admissions

Before entering the University, people must wash their hands, get the body temperature monitored, and always wear the mask correctly, in addition to complying with social distancing.

Shumai Ahmed from Airport Campus said, ‘It is challenging to complete all the activities online, when studying. Iqra University has

helped me out to continue the studies properly. They are trying to facilitate me in all aspects. They have introduced a hybrid system in which I can take online classes through Blackboard. Blackboard is a great learning platform to learn online.

On the other hand, on-campus classes have been an unforgettable experience with the professional faculty. I think in the Covid era, Hybrid model can go a long way in helping students continue education.’

According to the Vice Chancellor, Dr. Wasim Qazi, it is essential for students to resume interaction with friends, consultation with teachers, and revive spaces for conversation and debate that are essential part of university life. It is time for students to return to their second home and actively participate in their educational experience.

For Urooba Emran, a graduate student, it is strange to see the campus with only half of the strength of the students. Still, she values returning after more than a year and especially being able to enter the laboratory where she carries out her research work. ‘It was essential to return, even more so for those of us doing research, for which on campus presence is required,’ she explains.



The students appreciate the biosafety measures at points of entry to the campus. The constant cleaning is done in laboratories, classrooms, and in every corner of Iqra University. Alia Ali, an assistant in Department of Research, says that she feels safe to return to campus and is eager to resume work following all the safety protocols.

Iqra University is following all the safety protocols strictly to ensure the safety of the faculty, staff and students. Training is being provided to teachers to teach virtual and face-to-face classes. Thus, the management and faculty invite students to return to campus to resume their university life in a safe environment.

Faculty Perspective



Dr. Fatima Hatim Anjary
Assistant Professor

“ Most courses of media science require hands on experience, but the faculty has taken this as a challenge and modified the curriculum to deliver quality content to our students online. ”



Rashid Akbar,
Lecturer

“ Adapting to the new normal is not easy. Having said that, it is a great opportunity for us to learn something new. I feel that my skillset has expanded because of the challenge of teaching online during the pandemic. ”



Dr. Syed Sheraz Mohani
Assistant Professor and
Director Sports

“ Coronavirus outbreak has significantly impacted the higher education system. We have to learn to take online learning forward, teach our students to take online learning as a blessing, and make the most out of this situation. ”



Ehtesham Khan, Lecturer

“ Covid 19 has been a time of profound uncertainty for teachers, requiring quick thinking, learning of new skills, and unlearning of the traditional methods. The new normal has been a challenge for teachers. Alhamdulillah, with the support of our IT Team, the faculty has learned to use the latest technologies within no time. ”



Syed Muhammad Sarim Sajid,
Lecturer

“ Despite being a challenge at first, online learning has benefited a lot of students. Many of my students work to support their families and online learning has given these students the liberty and freedom to take classes as per their convenience. ”



Kaniz Zainab, Lecturer

“ The shift to remote learning didn't change my practice—only the delivery. I think it is essential to be flexible and prepared for anything. The positive change is how fast I learned and embraced technology that I didn't choose in the past. ”



Areeba Iqbal,
Lecturer

“ A powered-up university in every community is what Pakistani students deserve. The management and faculty of Iqra University have worked together to harness the pandemic opportunities to take the education forward. ”

Life in Karachi

By Dr. Ranmali Pradeepa Jayaratne

I accepted the offer I received from Iqra University and came to Pakistan in October 2020. After living in many western countries, when I decided to move to Pakistan, I was unsure what lied ahead of me. However, in my mind, I was thinking that it would be the start of another memorable chapter in my life. Today, I believe it is one of the best decisions that I have made in my life. I came to Karachi in mid-October. As soon I landed at the Karachi International Airport, the University representative was waiting for me at the arrival gate.

Since then, Iqra University has been looking after me with much care and comfort. The University very proactively supported me to adjust to my new home and new culture without any difficulty. Despite the challenges faced due to the COVID-19, the immense support I received from the University helped me settle down very well within a brief period. The support and care received from the staff at Iqra, from top management to bottom level, made my journey an enjoyable one. The facilities and the support available to carry out my teaching and research are remarkable. The encouragement and the opportunities provided by the University to participate in research and other development programs are excellent. Soon I became a part of the Iqra family, and Pakistan became my second home.

On the other hand, the life in Karachi is also exciting and sometimes a challenging one. Even though normal life was disrupted due to COVID-19, my life in Karachi was not that hard. Being a person who has studied and lived in western countries such as Australia and Canada, I was pessimistic about moving to another Asian country other than my own country, Sri Lanka. However, the journey taught me that settling and working in an Asian country such as Pakistan also has many perks. Even though it was a new experience with a new culture and new friends, I soon realized that it is not very different from my own values and culture, making it easy to adjust to the new environment. At the same time, I realized that Karachi has so much to offer me as well, as it has allowed me to experience many unique aspects of life.

Another Milestone Achieved: **Launch of NURSING** Program at Health Sciences Department

By Simrah Shaikh & S. M. Mujtaba

Challenges for the Health Care Sector and the Nursing Fraternity

Iqra University, initially established as a business school in 1998, has made enormous progress in various significant disciplines, including the recently established Health Sciences Department. Pakistan's ailing health care sector is in a precarious condition, beset with numerous problems due to the political and financial instability and corruption. The current health care system cannot provide a solution to problems such as high infant and maternal mortality rates and low female life expectancy. In its consistent drive to foster the country's economic sectors, Iqra University chose to step into the health care sector in 2018. Since then, the University has been efficiently operating the Health Sciences Department with futuristic and modern facilities, offering four programs: Doctor of Pharmacy, Doctor of Physical Therapy, BS in Human Nutrition & Dietetics, and BS in Psychology.

After successfully establishing the Health Sciences Department, Iqra University has now founded its Nursing College. The Nursing College offers the following degree programs: BS in Nursing (4 years), Post- RN-BS in Nursing (2 years), and a Diploma of Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA). The University has provided the

students with a purpose-built infrastructure and state-of-the-art facilities, including a library with over 100,000 books and a nursing simulation lab for hands-on clinical experience. Lastly, to fully equip graduate nurses of IQRA with evidence-based practice competencies and professional insight, the University has an affiliation with Hussain Lakhani Hospital as its teaching hospital where the students will be trained by highly qualified clinical faculty. The hospital has also signed MoUs with different hospitals.

According to Pakistan's health statistics, the nurse-doctor ratio in Pakistan is 1:10, which is an alarming situation.

The absence of nursing staff may bring health facilities to the brink of a fiasco. This shows how essential nurses are for health care. The second most crucial aspect is the quality of training because of which the patients suffer eventually. The nurses must be well-acquainted with high-risk medicines and standard procedures for effective patient care. Iqra University aims to resolve both situations by giving its students the knowledge and skillset to deal with the existing and emerging complex, local, and global health issues. Now more than ever, it is time to give this profession its due importance as the nursing fraternity has played a commendable role as the first-line defenders in the fight against COVID-19. They have gone beyond their duty to combat the Covid-19 outbreak by taking care of the patients and sacrificing their own lives.

HEALTH SCIENCES

Through its Pharmacy, Physical Therapy, Human Nutrition & Dietetics, Psychology and Nursing disciplines, Iqra University intends to raise the health care standards in Pakistan by producing competent and professional health care practitioners.

NURSING

With a purpose-built infrastructure, including simulation labs and state-of-the-art facilities, Iqra University aims to produce skilled and competent nurses through hands-on clinical training.

HUSSAIN LAKHANI HOSPITAL

With over 300 beds and the cutting-edge medical facilities, Hussain Lakhani Hospital aims to establish a health care system that addresses the basic needs of all patients and provides them with top-notch medical care.

FACULTY OF
HEALTH SCIENCES

Expanding Horizons

Inauguration of Iqra University - Bahria Town Campus

By Moeed Khaliq Khan

Iqra University, one of the largest private-sector universities in Pakistan, has proudly launched its state-of-the-art Bahria Town Campus in Karachi. The Bahria Town Campus will be a hallmark in quality education through excellence in research and innovation. The campus will be a residential campus, open to all students. It will also provide free education to all deserving students on merit.

The inaugural ceremony of Iqra University, Bahria Town Campus, was held on December

30th, 2020. The ceremony was attended by vice chancellors, dignitaries, leading personalities, international faculty, scholars, students, parents, media, and more than 200 Ph.D. faculty members of Iqra University.

The University's Vice Chancellor and President, Professor Dr. Wasim Qazi, stated that money would not be a barrier to quality education anymore at the Bahria Campus, as he said, "Those deserving students, who are bright, committed to learning, and have the potential

to lead communities and the country, will be provided complete financial assistance and ample opportunities to study at Bahria Campus." Dr. Wasim Qazi stressed that technological innovation, internationalization, and societal impact would be the salient features of Bahria Campus. Dr. Qazi reiterated the need for industry-academia collaboration and highlighted that Bahria Campus would play an essential role in bridging the industry and academia gap.

Bahria Town Campus is spread over 16 acres of land. It is located next to the world's third-largest mosque in Bahria Town Karachi. It has the most modern and state-of-the-art teaching and learning facilities, including spacious classrooms, study rooms, library, laboratories, sports arena, and recreational facilities. Above all, highly qualified and experienced international faculty including notable names from North America, UK, Europe, and Australia are part of the core faculty team to provide world-class education to IU students. The scenic Bahria Town Campus

also provides its international faculty and students with furnished residence.

Bahria Town Campus will provide financial assistance to all the students on merit. According to the scheme, financial aid officers would work closely with families of students to understand their financial situation to create a comprehensive package of financial assistance that covers the full cost of education.

Along with traditional education and professional studies, Iqra University Bahria Town Campus would focus on developing students' soft skills, including the art of communication and interpersonal skills, which are vital for professional growth. In partnership with Pakistan's corporate sector, IU plans to ensure that its students get internship opportunities to prepare themselves for the professional life ahead. Bahria Town Campus will have strong linkages with international universities. It will offer unique and cutting-edge programs based on global benchmarking. The campus will not only offer diverse programs to students and the industry, but will also give the opportunity to diplomats to interact and learn with the international faculty. Iqra University will continue to academically grow and prosper to benefit the country through intellectual and scholarly contributions.



IU

NEW CAMPUS Grand Opening



“ Iqra University's Bahria Town Campus aims to give its students the best possible learning environment through state-of-the-art infrastructure, cutting-edge technological facilities and the best faculty to equip students with the global competence so that they can thrive anywhere in the world. **”**

Mr. Hunaid Hussain Lakhani

Cautious Optimism

SOPs followed by Institutes

By Dr. Fatima Dar

The entire world went through a devastating crisis as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. A sudden halt in routine business and everyday activities, on one hand, led to lost opportunities and bitter economic woes, but on the other hand, it enabled the world to think of a transformative change to substitute hopelessness with optimism. The education sector was among the sectors most severely affected by the pandemic, however, it played a decisive role in converting the pandemic challenge into an opportunity for sustainable growth.

The biggest challenge for the education sector was to seamlessly resume the teaching and learning process which came to an abrupt halt as a result of the pandemic. An encouraging step taken by the Higher Education Commission (HEC) of Pakistan was to bring all the universities from public and private sector

on board to discuss short- and long-term strategic plans to resume educational activities throughout Pakistan.

Iqra university, one of the biggest private sector universities in Pakistan, was awarded a full score for achieving the desired online readiness status. This was all due to the tireless efforts of the University management and staff that the University achieved a 100% score in the minimum possible time and made it possible for students to resume academic activities in the online mode. Although the University was already using a sophisticated and state-of-the-art learning management system before the pandemic struck, it was capacitated further to address the conversion of all academic activities to the virtual mode. Simultaneously, IU acquired the Zoom subscription for online classes, which was soon replaced by Blackboard, the world's best learning management system.

Faculty and students were trained to use the virtual tools on a regular basis, while digital library resources were made available to them as well. Thus, the University made an all-out effort to normalize educational activities without compromising the safety and security of the faculty and students while maintaining high academic standards.

With the periodic improvement in the pandemic situation, the universities were allowed to resume educational activities on campus with the condition of strict compliance of SOPs. Iqra University followed all the SOPs in addition to providing faculty, staff and students the facility to get the COVID-19 tests done free of cost. Moreover, the University stood tall in its humanitarian efforts to attend to the faculty, staff and students in crisis and address their issues with a highly empathetic approach.

The pandemic provided a huge opportunity to the world to begin anew, rethink ideas, and learn to co-exist with unfavorable realities. The entire world emerged as a better learner and found hope, a cautious optimism, amidst adversity. To put it in Rabindranath Tagore's terms, "Clouds come floating in my life, no longer to carry rain or usher storm, but to add color to my sunset sky."



An Opportunity of a Lifetime for IU's Aspiring Entrepreneurs

By Alina Pervez

Iqra University has recently established a business incubation center (IUBIC) that aims to facilitate the creation of ideas and prepare future leaders for the challenges in the business world. The incubation center, established on the first floor of EDC Campus, is equipped with state-of-the-art infrastructure and facilities for young entrepreneurs who are interested in starting their business ventures. Students with

an approved business plan will receive training and all the resources essential for start-ups at the incubation center.

Dr. Aarij Hussaan, Director IU ORIC, says "The aim of the incubation centre is to bridge the gap between ideas and technical expertise required for their execution by connecting start-ups to a mentor, so that they receive proper guidance regarding the ins and outs of the business world."

He said that the incubation center will support students with their start-up ideas in their initial

development stage by providing an array of essential resources and services. Dr. Aarij explained these services would be provided in the form of investments, technical expertise, and mentorship by the BIC directly or through its network of contacts.

The basic requirement to be eligible for the BIC is to have a fully developed business idea and a formal business plan. The applicants will be judged on the basis of their business idea and their level of preparation. The BIC offers a one-year plan to incubatees where they are provided complete support to achieve initial business objectives. Incubatees will graduate from the center once the start-up is stable and the business owners are sufficiently prepared to continue in the market on their own.

Dr. Aarij stated that the BIC will host several mentorship sessions for final year students, thesis students and fresh graduates in the near future. He said that these training sessions will be a regular activity that the incubation center will organize at least once in a semester.

"Job titles do not make money and do not run a business," Dr. Aarij said while giving advice for young entrepreneurs, "many businesses hire CEOs for their company. My advice would be to hire the right person for the right job. Keep in mind that quality will always cost you, it never comes cheap."

“The aim of the incubation centre is to bridge the gap between ideas and technical expertise required for their execution by connecting start-ups to a mentor, so that they receive proper guidance regarding the ins and outs of the business world.”

Dr. Aarij Hussaan,
Director IU ORIC



IMAGINE

INSTITUTE OF FUTURES STUDIES

By Dr. Shams Hamid

'Imagine - Institute of Futures Studies' is a research institute at Iqra University. It is the first institute of futures studies in a Pakistani university. Imagine is an integral part of the Vice-Chancellor of Iqra University, Professor Dr. Wasim Qazi's vision, to transform Iqra University into a university of the 4th industrial age. Iqra University academics from diverse disciplines like humanities, social and health sciences, business and media studies, information technology, and engineering collaborate with Imagine to construct preferred futures and roadmaps for Pakistan and the regional developing countries. Our goal is to initiate collaboration on micro, meso, and macro levels to broaden our spectrum for moulding the present to create a sustainable, equitable, and humane future. Imagine engages with think tanks, institutes, universities, business enterprises, as well as national, regional, global, and international communities to construct roadmaps to create our preferred futures. At Imagine, we want to explore the areas of mutually beneficial collaboration with you and your organization. Imagine welcomes all the residents and all the businesses of the world. Let us join hands to create our desired futures.

Our Goals

At Imagine – Institute of Futures Studies, we are committed to:

- Celebrate uniqueness, diversity, equity, and interconnectedness through empathy.
- Collectively construct sustainable futures stories and create viable futures models utilizing creative collaboration, intelligence, imagination, and empathy to turn these stories into reality.
- Critically assess roadmaps to our preferred future and continuously revise them,

incorporating emerging technological and social trends.

- Disseminate our stories and roadmaps through multiple channels, including research publication, literature, art, drama, social and traditional media, and cultural events.
- Introduce and contribute to the conceptual frameworks, paradigms, methods, techniques, tools, tactics, strategies, and skillsets developed by futures studies researchers and research institutions.
- Critically and creatively assess the impact of technological, social, and ecological systems on the preferred future and its roadmaps.
- Engage the public sector, private sector, non-profit organizations, entrepreneurs, investors, academics, and civil society to create an equitable, eco-friendly, and humane world.
- Produce audiovisual material in local and regional languages to increase access, and engage local and regional communities in creating a desirable future.

Our Offerings

Training, Consultancy and Research

Introductory and Advanced Courses

Seminars, Webinars and Workshops

Collaboration and Linkages

Our Contributions

1. IMAGINE is the first institute of futures studies in a Pakistani university.
2. Introduced futures thinking to the public through television and social media.
3. Initiated Futures Talks, a video show, to discuss and collaborate with the leading scientists, social scientists, politicians, business people, and members of civil society.
4. Conducted first-ever hybrid workshops to train the facilitators of Introduction to Futures Studies Course.
5. Collaborated with COMSTECH, a subsidiary of Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), to conduct detailed interviews of illustrious scientists and leaders from OIC member states.
6. Conducted several interviews of the leading academics, researchers, and scientists from the United States of America, including:
 - Dr. Mary Cuadrado (Director and Associate Professor, Criminal Justice at Mercy college)
 - Dr. James Witte (Professor in the Department of Sociology and Anthropology and Director of the Institute for Immigration Research (IIR))
 - Dr. Rizwan C. Naeem (Director of Molecular Pathology and Fellowship Programs at Montefiore Medical Center)
 - Professor Dr. Franco Gandolfi (Professor of Management, McDonough School of Business, Georgetown University)



IU SUCCESS STORY

Youngest internationally published author from Pakistan. Her list of books include:

- 1- I Wear a Wig (2018)
- 2- The Skin and Other Layers (2019)
- 3- Sunshine (2019)

Sophia Abid

WRITER / AUTHOR

Sophia Abid, a student of BS (Psychology) at Iqra University, North Campus, has become the youngest internationally published author from Pakistan.

Her first book, 'I WEAR A WIG,' is part of the National Library of Scotland.

Here is the list of Sophia's books:

- 1- I Wear a Wig (2018)
- 2- The Skin and Other Layers (2019)
- 3- Sunshine (2019)

She has also designed 2 bullet journals, titled PAPER CLIPS and THINGS I DID IN QUARANTINE.



IU SUCCESS STORY

Afnan Ahmed Siddiqui started his journey with no capital, no funding, and no experience, yet he was able to achieve massive success against all odds. He never surrendered in the face of challenges and remained steadfast and determined in his desire to make it big.

Afnan Ahmed

ENTREPRENEUR

Afnan Ahmed Siddiqui started working at the age of 15 years as an outdoor marketer. By the time he was 18, he had gained several international certifications including Data science (Big Data), Hadoop (Artificial Intelligence), Oracle ERP (Database Administration) and SAP.

He served for almost a decade in the IT industry and completed several projects and corporate trainings for the local and international clients. His company, ITIC System, has now become a USA-based firm and an official partner of PMI (Project Management Institute).

Afnan decided to continue his professional studies and took admission in MBA at Iqra University, Airport Campus. He participated in the National Entrepreneur Competition (NEC) held at Iqra University, and won the competition. He participated along with his team in the second national competition that took place in Bahawalpur, and won the competition again.

In 2017, he established Heaven Marketing and successfully completed several marketing and sales projects, including Amatul Residency, Rafi Heaven phase I-V, Heaven Icon, and Al-Ghaffar City. He established Heaven Event Management (HEM) in 2020 and registered his own production company, JANS Productions, in January, 2021. He has recently delivered his first project, Dil Kia Karay, to See Prime movies to be released on YouTube.



Starting the New Year on the right foot, Iqra University wins 5th Bahria Inter University Cricket Tournament 2020.



Iqra University Table Tennis (Men) Team clinches victory from IBA.



Areeba Muneer is the only Pakistani participant securing 50th position out of 649 players in Indoor Archery World Series Online 2020-2021.



The Journey has just begun. Iqra University is HEC Zone 'G' Intervarsity Football (Men) 2020-21 - CHAMPION. Congratulations to the boys in blue!



Congratulations to Basketball (Boys) team on winning the 3rd position in HEC Zone 'G' Intervarsity Championship 2020-21 organized by PAF-KIET.



Congratulations to Iqra University Netball (Women) team on achieving the 3rd Position in Karachi Netball Cup 2021 at PAF Chapters.



Syeda Eraj Batool Zaidi won her three events in 9th Essa Lab National Senior & Junior National Tennis Championship 2021.

IU PARTNERS WITH ISLAMABAD UNITED TO PROMOTE SPORTS FOR YOUTH

By Fatima tul Jihad

Being a Pakistani, you become a cricket fan at a young age in those typical households where cricket is the topic of tea-time gossip. You are the kid who loves LALA without even knowing LALA till you become a true fan of cricket as well to participate in those discussions.

The Pakistan Super League journey began with six teams representing different cities of Pakistan this year. Every Pakistani knows the constant fun rivalry between the major cities of Pakistani, which has become the additional reason for us to eagerly wait for PSL matches.

While I was enjoying the PSL matches, I noticed that Iqra University has officially sponsored Islamabad United team. I was pleasantly surprised to learn that IU has become the Youth Sports Partner of Islamabad United to promote sports for the youth of Pakistan.

Just like its first ranking in the higher education, Iqra University has also become the first higher education institution that sponsored a PSL franchise.

Now the question arises, why Islamabad United? Why not Karachi Kings or Peshawar Zalmi? What makes it more interesting is the tricky job for IU students to cheer for Islamabad United, rather than Karachi Kings.

Not to forget, just like Iqra University, Islamabad United, a two-time-champion of PSL, is a pioneer in what they do. Whether it was Babar Azam, Sharjeel Khan, or Imaad Butt,

all of these stellar performers played their first season in PSL with ISLU.

It was funny seeing how IU students joined the matches conducted in Karachi, yet they did not support Karachi Kings. I can vouch for the difficult feat they accomplished of supporting Islamabad United in the National Stadium filled with Karachi Kings fans. I salute their spirit!

On a serious note, Iqra University has never disappointed us in promoting the soft image of Pakistan on different platforms. From educational front to sports and other co-curricular activities, IU is in a league of its own, much ahead of its competition in the country. We are proud to be IU students.



IU Highlights



On February 24th, Iqra University held an Open House at Airport Campus to introduce the 2-year associate degree program.



A welcome party was organized at North Campus in which new students were invited, while strictly following the SOPs for conducting such events.



Inter board regional competition was held at Iqra University Karachi. Vice-Chancellor Iqra University announced scholarships for the position holders of intermediate boards.



Iqra University hosted a focus group discussion with the corporate leaders and alumni. Individuals from various industries were invited to provide constructive feedback.



Bank Al Habib visited Iqra University to recruit our valuable talent pool.



IU Social Media Team came together for a fun and interactive meet and greet session where multiple upcoming and exciting projects of Iqra University were discussed.



Iqra University organized a CV Optimization Counselling Clinic to help students enhance their CVs / Resumes.



FindMyAdventure visited Iqra University for recruiting undergraduates, providing them with employment and career growth opportunities.



Al Baraka Bank Pakistan Ltd visited Iqra University to recruit fresh graduates, providing them with employment and career growth opportunities.



J. Junaid Jamshed visited Iqra University to recruit from our unique and diversified talent pool.



Zaheer Abbas (former Pakistani Cricketer), Danish Nawaz (actor and director), Aijaz Aslam (actor), and Mrs. Reema Imran Ismail (wife of Governor Sindh) extended their support to 'WearaMask' campaign by Iqra University.



The graduation ceremony of the first cohort of twenty-four full-time faculty members was held at Iqra University. The faculty completed a Diploma in Higher Education in collaboration with California Southern University, USA.



A PUBG Gaming Tournament was held at Iqra University Airport Campus on March 10th- 11th.



Trending number 1 on Twitter



Iqra University initiated IU live Q&A sessions with members of its global alumni network. The first live session featured Ali Rawal, based in Stuttgart Germany.

Iqra University Launches Associate Degree and Continuing Education Programs

By Alina Pervez

Amidst the chaos, disruption and academic uncertainty caused by the ongoing pandemic, Iqra University has launched two new programs to ensure students' skill development and career growth. The Associate Degree (AD) program, a two-year undergraduate program, was recently launched which received widespread attention and student response not only from across Pakistan but also from Pakistani students living abroad. Scholarships for the program have also been awarded to successful candidates, after tests were conducted across all campuses. An orientation for the Associate Degree Batch of '23 was

hosted at the Main Campus, while students and teachers from other campuses joined virtually.

After the successful launch of the Associate Degree Program, Iqra University is all set to launch the Continuing Education (CE) Program. This professional certification program offers a range of courses that will enable students to gain professional credibility and career advancement in just two months. The program offers a wide range of in-demand professional certifications that are designed to enhance students' knowledge and expertise in their chosen field.



AD PROGRAM OPEN HOUSE



AD PROGRAM OPEN HOUSE



AD SCHOLARSHIP TEST



SCHOLARSHIP DISTRIBUTION



AD PROGRAM ORIENTATION

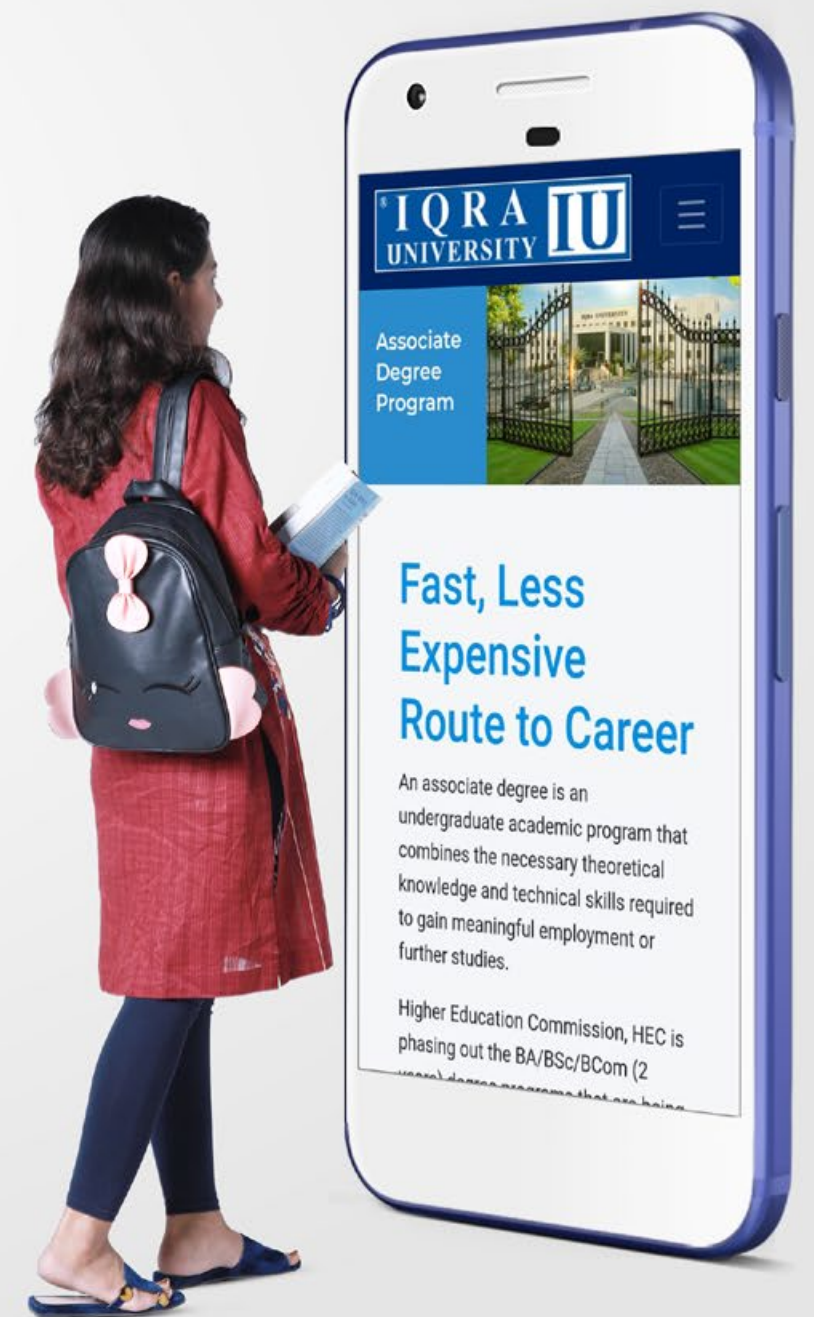


AD PROGRAM ORIENTATION

A Fast-paced degree program for a fast-paced world.

AD program is designed to enable students to cope up with the current and emerging trends of various professional fields to help them succeed.

 ad.iqra.edu.pk



IU Office of Placement, Corporate Liaison and Alumni Affairs

By Mufarrah Malik

IU Office of Placement, Corporate Liaison and Alumni Affairs Department offers its services to students, graduates, alumni and the corporate sector to connect the corporates with a diversified result-oriented talent pipeline.

JOB FAIR 2021

Job Fair is a flagship event of Iqra University that provides an exceptional talent pool to the corporate sector and placement opportunities to students for internships, MTOs and Jobs. This year, the event was held virtually on the 6th of April. Following are the details about the available placement opportunities, the number of participating companies and student participants:



3000+
PLACEMENT OPPORTUNITIES



350+
COMPANIES



900+
APPLICANTS

OTHER ACTIVITIES THAT THE DEPARTMENT EXECUTES



Recruitment Drives



CV/Resume Optimization Clinics



Counselling Clinic



Training Sessions/Workshops



Career Launchpad



Executive Talks/C-Suite



Self-Defense Training



Company Visits



Alumni Meetups



Department Vision

To consistently provide assistance and guidance to graduates and undergraduates who can effectively shoulder the task of building a vibrant Pakistan

Department Mission

To work as a unified team to train and facilitate the students for industry needs and professional skills so as to enable them to achieve their personal and professional goals

