



Mushtaq Ahmad Gurmani  
School of Humanities and Social Sciences

A Complete  
**GUIDE**  
to MGSHSS

Introduction to Majors, Minors,  
Support Services, and Career Options

**WELCOME!** Lahore University of Management and Sciences  
Designed by @Nazish Riaz



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Welcome to the leading humanities and social sciences program in the country, with an established reputation of training students to become leaders who understand and shape society. Since being founded as an independent School in 2012, MGSHSS has remained dedicated to the advancement of knowledge through excellence in teaching and research.

At the School, we strive to have our students graduate with the capacity to explore widely and deeply, think creatively and critically, and express ideas clearly and effectively. By realising their full intellectual and personal potential, students will contribute to the betterment of society in Pakistan and the wider region. MGSHSS aims to nurture individuals to be principled, intellectually engaged, and socially responsible members of society who aspire to change the world around them through inspirational leadership and transformative community participation.

Over the decades MGSHSS has earned an international reputation in the field of humanities and social sciences. A community of world-class scholars, the vibrancy of the teaching, the quality of the research, and an outstanding curriculum — all combine to produce an undergraduate program of the highest international standards.

MGSHSS currently consists of two departments: Economics; and Humanities and Social Sciences (HSS). It also houses three Centres — the Mahbub Ul Haq Research Center, the Saida Waheed Gender Initiative, and the Gurmani Centre for Languages and Literature.



## **Mushtaq Ahmad Gurmani School of Humanities and Social Sciences (MGSHSS)**

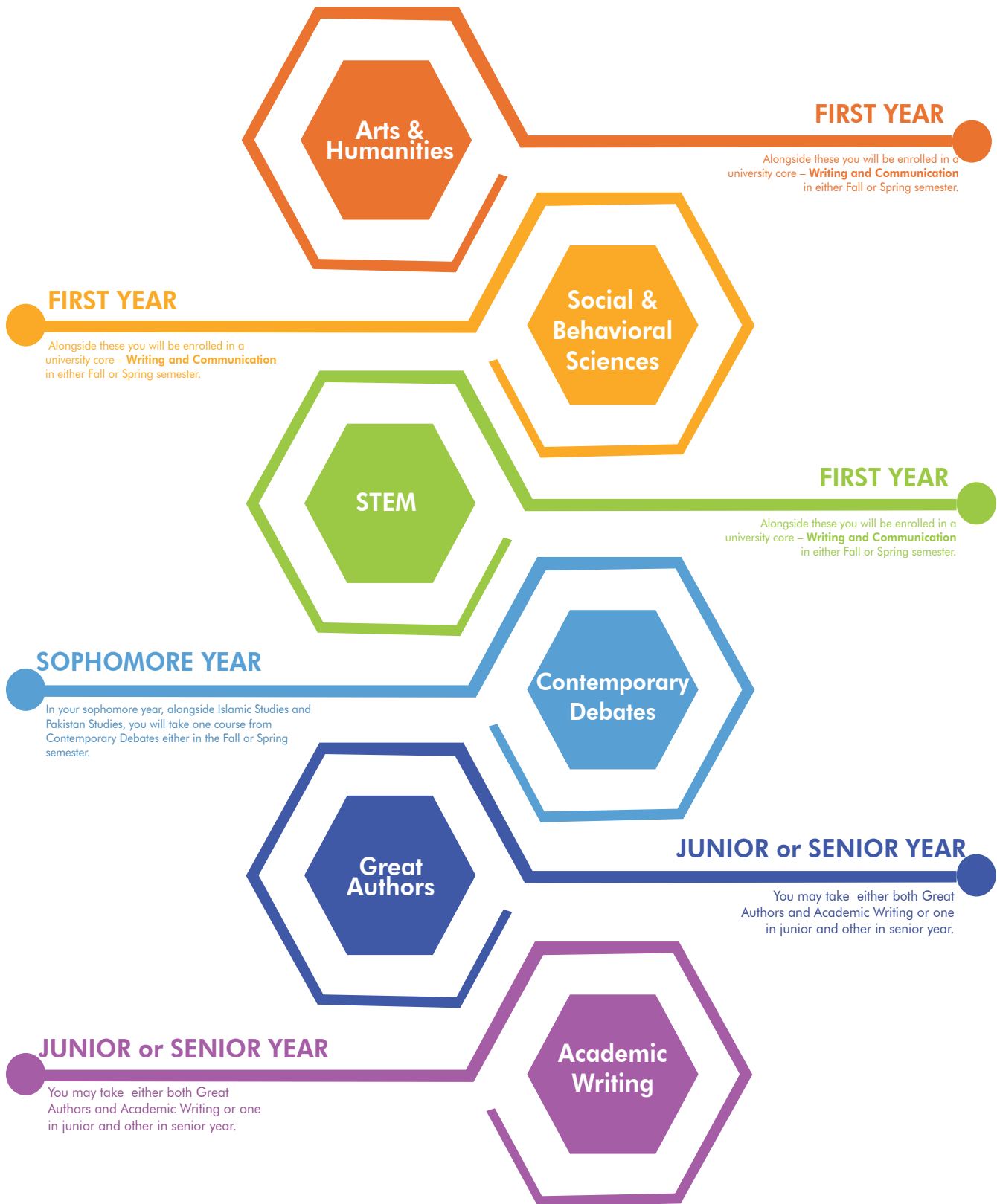
# THE CORE CURRICULUM

The modern world is beset with challenges that are multi-faceted — be it poverty, terrorism, pandemics, or climate change. To understand and address these issues requires a holistic understanding, a broad foundation of knowledge, and a diverse set of transferable skills. To cater to these needs, in 2018, the School launched an innovative Core Curriculum. The interdisciplinary nature of the Core helps ensure that students are equipped with the requisite tools and that they emerge as reflective, empathetic, and historically informed individuals, with an understanding of both global and local current issues.

We are confident that — equipped with these skills — our graduates would be able to overcome challenges they face in a rapidly changing world, whether they work in the public sector, the private sector, for non-governmental organisations, or in the academia.



# CORE CURRICULUM BUCKETS



The Core Curriculum along with the current group of University wide Core Courses add up to 32 credit hours of coursework meaning that even after completing your University and School core courses you will still have enough space to be able to pursue a minor in addition to your major **and** be left with free electives.



# MAJORS & MINORS AT MGS SHSS



## Majors

- Anthropology & Sociology
- History
- Political Science
- English
- Economics & Mathematics
- Economics
- Politics & Economics
- Comparative Literary & Cultural Studies



## Minors

- Anthropology & Sociology
- History
- Political Science
- English
- Gender & Sexuality Studies
- Philosophy
- Economics
- Psychology
- Study of Religion
- Comparative Literary & Cultural Studies
- Environmental Studies

# MAJORS

Alongside the core curriculum which runs through the 4 years of the undergraduate programme, students at MGS HSS also choose a major. Each of the two departments — Economics as well as Humanities and Social Sciences — offers a range of majors. Students are placed into one of the two departments when they join. Only after the first two years, during which students are exposed to a variety of disciplines, do they make an informed decision about which major they prefer to follow within their department.

The choice should be based on the student's own interest and aptitude for a particular major. Career choices for all the majors are similar and employers show no preference for a particular major across the Schools. It is a mistake to believe that any major provides a particular benefit in the market. If anything, the Core Curriculum along with the student's choice of major will provide the student with the skills to excel in a wide range of professions.

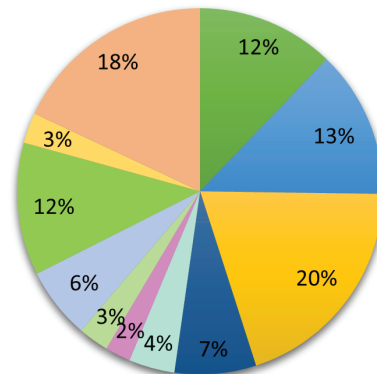
You can see the varied placements and career paths of our alumni in the pie charts shown with each major below.

# Anthropology and Sociology

Sociology and Cultural Anthropology are related disciplines. Cultural anthropologists recognise that there is no one way to be human and place an emphasis on understanding the sheer diversity of human lives cross-culturally. Sociologists explore the relations between social groups and investigate how social institutions and structures shape human lives. Both disciplines provide the 'thinking tools' and methods that promote a complex understanding of human beings and social phenomena, which can be used to devise meaningful solutions to social problems and challenges.

The Anthropology and Sociology major ensures that students get a strong foundation in the discipline while having the freedom to explore more specialised interests both inside and outside the classroom. These specialised interests reflect the expertise of the faculty, which range from the study of gender, religion, sport, art, kinship, education, and food, to the study of cities, development, and globalisation, in regions ranging from the Americas to South Asia and beyond. With the whole of human society as its field of interest, there are few disciplines that can rival the diversity of sociology and anthropology. There are also few disciplines that can remind people that despite our overt differences, we are all bound together by our humanity.

## Anthropology and Sociology



- Business, Law, and Professional Services
- Development Sector, Non-Profit, NGO, and Social Services
- Education, Ed-Research, Research Services, and E-Learning
- Energy, Environment, and Transportation
- Finance, Banking, and Investment
- Government Administration and Public Offices
- Healthcare and Pharmaceuticals
- Manufacturing (including MNCs), Engineering, and Industries
- Mass Media, Media Training, and Entertainment
- Technology, Electronics, Gaming Industry, and Tech-Research

\*The pie charts show the data collected through a self-filled survey about alumni career trajectories

## Comparative Literary and Cultural Studies (CLCS)

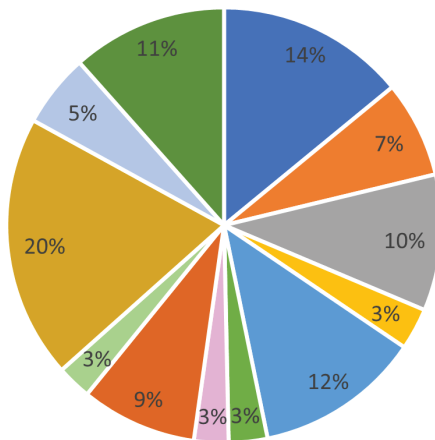
The curriculum at CLCS extends across disciplinary boundaries and methods, asking students to engage critically and artistically with a variety of aesthetic and discursive forms in an attempt to better understand the human condition. In particular, CLCS is interested in enabling students to recognise the structures of power and hegemony that have shaped postcolonial societies and cultures, and consequently to grapple with the productive possibilities — artistic and scholarly — that this recognition engenders. Drawing on methods that broadly lie in the domains of the anthropological, the aesthetic, the literary-historical, the creative, and even the technological, CLCS is an attempt to develop an ethical humanistic engagement with the region and the world.

Students of CLCS will emerge with the skills to undertake deep linguistic engagement, as well as with a broad understanding of the processes and constructs that go into the making of national cultures. They will emerge with skills in regional languages, writing (creative and academic), and screen studies (academic, criticism, and filmmaking). The programme seeks to train students to go into careers such as the print and electronic journalism, filmmaking, cultural organisations, local governments working at the grassroots, publishing, creative writing, and academia, but does not rule out career options in the corporate and financial world.

Since this major was introduced recently we do not have careers data available yet.



## Economics

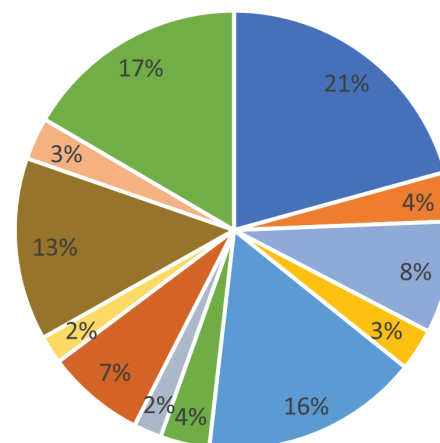


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## Economics

The Department of Economics seeks to contribute to questions at the frontier of economic knowledge by drawing on the regional laboratory of economic and social life in South Asia and by collaborating with academics based at global centers of excellence in economic research. The Economics major offers a wide variety of courses, including Macroeconomics, Microeconomics, Econometrics, Development, Trade, and Finance. Courses are geared towards both mainstream and heterodox theory and empirical evidence, which ensures that a broad base of perspectives, new ideas, and applications are presented to students. This equips students with analytical and quantitative skills that are widely applicable across many professional disciplines.

## Economics and Mathematics



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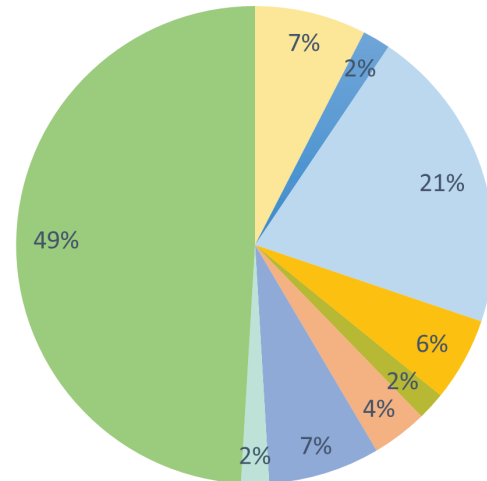
## Economics and Mathematics

The Economics and Mathematics joint major provides a strong base to those students who intend to pursue further studies at the graduate level in the field of Economics. Students seeking admission to a graduate programme have a higher chance of getting admitted to top ranked schools if they have taken mathematics courses like calculus, real analysis, and linear algebra during their undergraduate studies.

# History

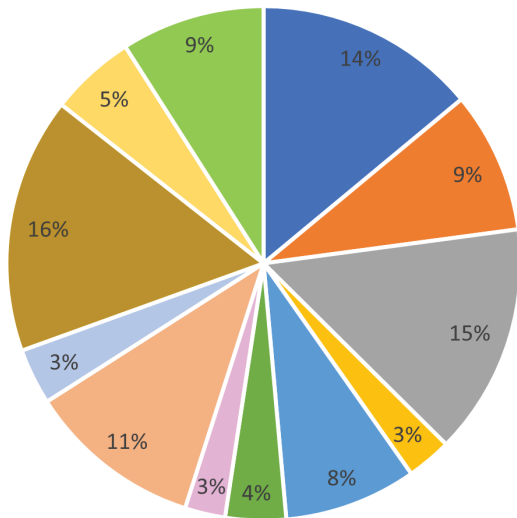
The History program at LUMS offers courses on Asian History, European History, Art and Architecture of South Asia, and the intellectual history of the Islamic world. The purpose of the program is to impart rigorous training to students in the art of reading various kinds of texts—whether poetry, miniature, archival document, or built environment — as sources of history and to analyse them for an understanding of the complexities of the past. As part of the training, we introduce our students to an in-depth study of theoretical debates in contemporary historiography, such as subaltern studies, postcolonial theory, Marxism, and decoloniality. The History courses draw upon scholarly influences from law, literature, religion, and anthropology to offer a degree program in humanities that is truly multidimensional, broad-ranged, and transdisciplinary.

## History



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## Political Science and Economics



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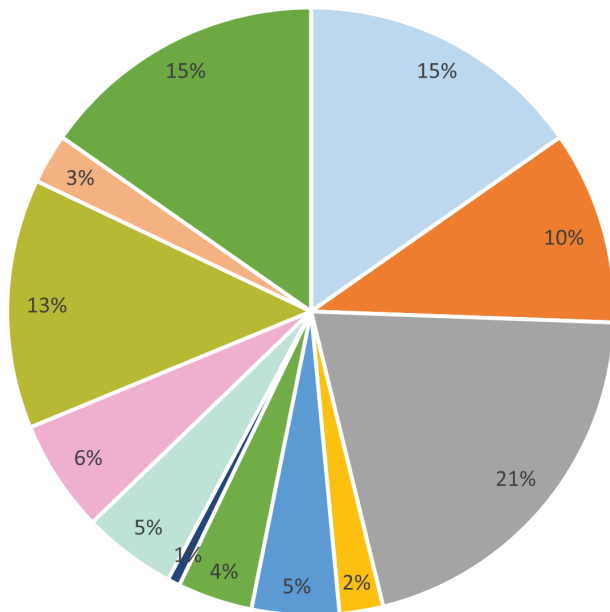
# Politics and Economics

The Politics and Economics joint major is an interdisciplinary program taught by the Economics and Political Science faculties, wherein students investigate the distribution of resources through the interplay of economy, polity, and society across a number of different levels from the local level to the global system and its institutions. The joint major equips students with a range of methodological techniques, leading to multiple ways of solving problems and exploring issues in public policy.

## Political Science

The LUMS Political Science major covers the theory and practice of government and politics at the local, state, national, and international levels. The major is dedicated to developing understandings of institutions, practices, and relations that constitute public life and modes of inquiry that promote citizenship. It offers students a uniquely stimulating environment for the study of major fields of politics and is led by prominent experts in their respective fields.

Political Science

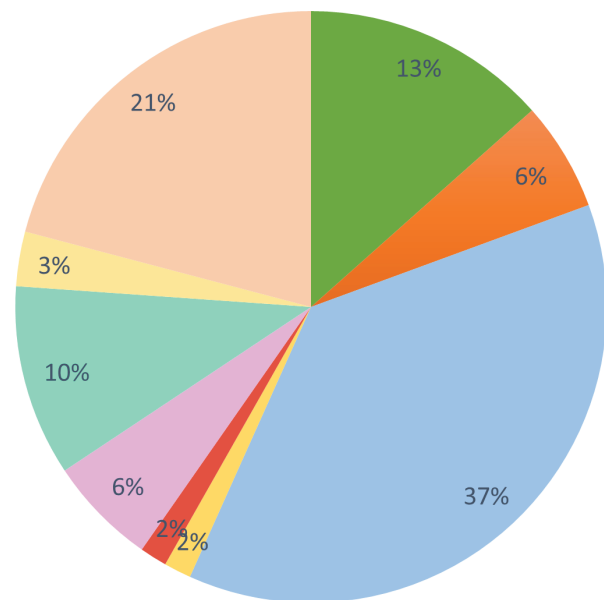


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## English

The English program offers a range of courses on Greek, British, American, and world Anglophone literature with an aim to train students in methods of contextual reading, critical analysis, and writing. Students receive grounding in canonical texts such as those by Aeschylus, Sophocles, William Shakespeare, Charles Dickens, and George Eliot; are immersed in modernist works by James Joyce, George Orwell, Virginia Woolf, Harold Pinter, and Thomas Stearns Eliot; and become well-versed in global writing by reading Chinua Achebe, Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, Gabriel Garcia Marquez, Toni Morrison, Maxine Hong Kingston, Naguib Mahfooz, Amitav Ghosh, and Margaret Atwood. Students are asked not just to grapple with the range of meanings and moments present in poetry, novels, plays, films, young adult fiction, creative writing, and popular culture, but also to produce compelling writing of their own. The programme uses literary and visual discourse to address issues of power, positionality, ethics, and agency in the contemporary world.

English



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# MINORS

Students can complete minors in addition to their chosen majors. Minors are especially helpful if students wish to pursue a different academic discipline in the future. All majors offered by the school can also be pursued as minors, along with the following additional options:

## Psychology

The Psychology programme presents students with a wide range of psychological thought and research on the behaviour and inner life of human beings and other animals. Although classical theories are included, the emphasis is on the teaching of psychology as a modern empirical science rooted in the experimental method. The programme offers courses in both applied and experimental areas of the field, such as abnormal and counselling psychology as well as learning theory, cognition, memory, perception, social psychology, and research methods, thereby providing students with a sound background in the fundamentals of the field.

## Study of Religion

The minor in the Study of Religion allows students to see how religion shapes communities and individuals and, in turn, shaped by social reality. The programme also equips students with tools to thoughtfully examine discussions and debates involving religion in academic and everyday settings. The courses include various religious traditions and span anthropological, textual, philosophical, and historical approaches to the study of religion.

## Environmental Studies

This minor adopts a trans-disciplinary and interdisciplinary approach to introduce students to environmental and sustainability concepts, challenges, and approaches. It explores different theories and processes that inform environmental debates, activism and policy-making across geographic regions and cultures. The minor offers the breadth and depth of interdisciplinary inquiry, integrating knowledge across the social sciences, the humanities, legal and business studies. The minor helps students develop analytical tools and skills for understanding the physical, human, and social environment, while emphasizing the role of beliefs, values, ethics, and aesthetics in shaping human behavior.

## Gender and Sexuality Studies (GSS)

The Gender and Sexuality Studies (GSS) minor will include a combination of foundational courses and electives with an interdisciplinary academic program focusing on gender and sexuality. The program's core curriculum will build upon feminist scholarship, incorporating interdisciplinary agendas, intellectual debates, changing methodological practices, and major scholarly shifts that inform the field. As a program committed to critical thinking and social analysis, the GSS minor will introduce students not only to the complex histories, cultures, political activities, and expressions of gender and sexuality, but will also raise questions about larger social and institutional formations. This minor is designed to move students beyond simple binary descriptions and contemporary, popularised accounts of gender. Instead, gender is analysed in the full complexity of its construction over time and using a variety of disciplinary lenses.

## Philosophy

The Philosophy programme provides a wide range of courses that cover the major areas of Philosophy. In addition to courses at the introductory level, the programme offers courses in Applied Ethics, Ethical Theory, Logic and Philosophy of Language, Epistemology and Metaphysics, Political Philosophy, and the History of Philosophy. The minor in Philosophy helps interested students engage with the questions that have attracted the attention of great minds in the history of human thought as well as with some of the pressing issues of the present. It also seeks to provide insights to some of the fundamental questions that belong to the subjects in which they pursue their majors. Completing a minor in Philosophy would be helpful to students who are interested in doing graduate studies in Philosophy and Humanities as well as in a range of other graduate programmes including Law.

# CULTURAL LIFE at MGS HSS

Apart from the majors and minors at MGS HSS, the School also lies at the cultural heart of the university. Located in the oldest of the buildings, the School of Humanities and Social Sciences is distinguished by its rich output of cultural activities—readings, poetry, plays, musical performances as well as workshops and seminars on contemporary issues. This allows students an exposure to a crucial learning experience that lies outside the confines of the traditional lecture hall.

# ADVISING at MGSHSS

MGSHSS believes that mentorship lies at the heart of ensuring that when students graduate from the School they are not only academically well trained but that they are also responsible and socially engaged members of society. As a result, the School has made close academic advising a priority. We currently have a three-tier system that includes Peer Advising Leaders (PALs) consisting of senior students who assist in the transition of first years into LUMS; and academic advisers who are staff members that provide wide ranging support from ensuring that degree requirements are being followed to linking students to relevant academic campus services. Lastly, engagement with Faculty Advisors is mandatory for students. Faculty help students identify educational goals in light of their individual intellectual passions and are often a first point of reference if any academic problems occur.

## ACADEMIC SUPPORT LAB (ASL)

The Academic Support Lab (ASL), is a student-run initiative dedicated to providing exceptional academic support to undergraduate students. The skilled tutors are well-prepared to guide students through effective reading strategies, unravel dense academic jargon, and facilitate their writing endeavors.

ASL tutors are available to offer personalized assistance beyond what students receive from Teaching Assistants and instructors. Whether they need help with reading comprehension, tackling challenging writing prompts, seeking feedback on their written pieces, or dealing with class participation anxiety, the ASL provides the required support.

## CAREERS at MGSHSS

Contrary to popular perception, research and case studies show that the learning and skills that students of the humanities and the social sciences acquire are in great demand in the marketplace—and that is as true of Pakistan as it is in the rest of the world. A four-year education in anthropology and sociology, political science, literature, history, or economics allows students to be articulate, thoughtful, and creative. These skills alone propel students into a variety of careers.

The Career Center was established in September 2021 in response to a significant demand from students for a careers office catering to more specific needs of students in Humanities and Social Sciences. This Center offers career advising and coaching to MGSHSS students. They help students with their internship searches, organize workshops for developing effective job hunting skills, and prepare students for interviews. The work is not limited to general career advice - the center also deals with specifics such as cover letters and resume reviews.

The aim is to fully support students as they set foot into the professional world.



# Alumni Journeys

**Zainab Arif (Political Science, 2018)** is an Associate Creative Director in Conglo.

The best part about studying at LUMS. It prepares you for any curveballs that life throws your way. While I majored in Political Science, I never restricted myself to studying only that discipline. I thoroughly enjoyed learning a little bit about everything. From sociology of religion to 18th century literature to Buddhist Art History - I consumed it all. Currently I am working as the Associate Creative Director at Conglo, an advertising agency. My time at LUMS really helped me prepare for any challenges that life would throw my way. It allowed me to have the creative freedom and space to pursue a career that is probably not at all relevant to the field that I studied. As a person, LUMS groomed me, gave me the ability to think freely, and taught me to never back down from a challenge.

**Imran Ahmad Khan (Politics and Economics 2014)** is the Head of Player Acquisition & Management, Pakistan Super League, Pakistan Cricket Board (Gaddafi Stadium, Lahore). He has a Master's from Columbia Journalism School which he attended on scholarship. He demonstrates the variety of skills he was taught at MGS HSS by being a contributing sports-writer for ESPN Cricinfo, First Post India, Dawn, and The Express Tribune.

"My time at LUMS taught me two lessons that help me on a daily basis in my professional life. First, I was able to hone my ability to think critically and analyse issues in a more holistic manner. This helps me see my end goal, highlight critical factors involved in my work, and address each factor accordingly. Second, I understood the importance of being a problem-solver. I learnt that identifying problems and solving them were two different parts of the same equation. LUMS gave me the confidence to identify problems and come up with unique solutions. I have applied this philosophy not only to my work but my approach to life in general because a large part of my LUMS experience was shaped outside the classroom — in the freedom that I enjoyed by being treated like an adult. That sense of freedom and mutual tolerance is what makes LUMS so different from other educational institutes."

**Hani Taha (Anthropology and Sociology 2008)** is a Filmmaker/actor at SOCH Pakistan (Media). She has a Master's in Magazine, Newspaper and Online Journalism from Syracuse University.

"It's the only education you will get in Pakistan that will open your mind. There's no rote learning. No right answers. No 2+2. It's the only place that tries to explain to you the absurdity of the human condition and how best to cope with it, all the while training you to be a great leader in whatever field you choose. It teaches you how to be accepting of others, how to work with people who are different from you and makes you a well-rounded and well-balanced individual who can contribute to any conversation anywhere—from discussing economics and social policy to psychology to philosophy to politics to marketing, fashion, and business. Trust me when I say this, you don't learn anything about a job till you're on it. There's no manual to be the best marketing director at a leading FMCG, no codified bible on being a social entrepreneur. So wrongfully believing, as your parents would insist, a finance, technology, or economics degree is all you need to be successful is not a balanced way to think about the modern-day job-market. Every job is different, each company comes with its own unique culture, and you will learn to play a very specific role suited to that organisation once you start working there. They don't expect you to know all the answers, but they do expect you to be a creative and incisive team player — all these skills are taught at MGS HSS."

**Momina Sohail (BSc Anthropology/Sociology, 2013, LUMS)** is a Communications Analyst for UNDP's National Human Development Report, UNDP Pakistan, Islamabad. She has an MSc in Medical Anthropology, 2015, University of Durham, UK (Commonwealth Shared Scholarship).

"LUMS equips you with many tools — the ability to think abstractly, to push past compartmentalisation, and to contextualise problems to truly understand them. In my mind, though, what really sets it apart is a faculty that is determined to make those four formative years into ones that you can safely build on in the future. As young adults, the ability to reach out to some of the best academic minds in the country, and to learn from them both in class and outside of it, is an unparalleled gift. LUMS also fosters a deep sense of community — of engaging with people both so very like you, and so very different — that breaks down walls and helps you negotiate your own biases. And just as it allows you to understand others better, it also helps you understand your own place in the world, and how to grow, and question, and be more useful."



**LUMS**

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