



STUDENT
RESEARCH
FORUM

FAS SRC

FACULTY OF ARTS AND SCIENCES
STUDENT RESEARCH CONFERENCE

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

7TH-8TH FEBRUARY 2026

AGA KHAN UNIVERSITY | HYBRID CONFERENCE

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1.0 Introduction

AKU-FAS Inaugural Student Research Conference

The Student Research Conference, organised by the AKU-FAS Student Research Forum, will take place over two days, bringing together students, faculty, researchers, and practitioners from across Pakistan and beyond. More than just a research gathering, the event is designed as an interdisciplinary meeting ground where arts, sciences, and the humanities intersect to address urgent local and global challenges

Anchored in the theme *Ideas Beyond Borders: Interdisciplinary Pathways to Shared Futures*, the conference will feature research papers, creative showcases, films, and installations. Subthemes range from climate resilience and health equity to digital cultures, heritage, and policy pathways, opening space for dialogue across disciplines and generations.

By combining rigorous scholarship with artistic expression, the conference seeks to spark conversations that are action-oriented, inclusive, and imaginative. Whether presenting research, showcasing creative work, or engaging in dialogue, participants will help shape more just, sustainable, and interconnected futures. The conference will be on a hybrid model (in-person + virtual).

2.0 Main Themes

IDEAS BEYOND BORDERS: Interdisciplinary Pathways to Shared Futures

We encourage submissions that explore the connections between different fields and disciplines, fostering conversations that can shape more sustainable and inclusive futures:

(Note: Submissions are not to be limited to the proposed subthemes; other interdisciplinary or original approaches beyond these categories will also be welcomed).

1. ENVIRONMENT, CLIMATE & SUSTAINABLE FUTURES

- Ecological challenges, resilience, adaptation, food systems, biodiversity, climate justice, sustainable design.
- Cross-cutting: arts/sciences approaches to envisioning sustainable futures.
- Food systems: agriculture, agroecology, nutrition, food sovereignty, global supply chains, and food security.
- Environmental justice: climate justice, indigenous land rights, gender and environmental change, intergenerational equity.

2. HEALTH, WELLBEING & COMMUNITIES

- Global health equity, genetics & biotechnology, mental health, traditional/indigenous medicine, community wellness, ethics of care.
- Interdisciplinary focus across medicine, humanities, and social sciences.
- Community wellness: public health campaigns, disability studies, ageing and elder care, sport and health, education and wellbeing.

3. CONFLICT, CRISIS & RESILIENCE

- Responses to wars, disasters, displacements, and recovery.
- Arts-based narratives of resilience, post-conflict memory, humanitarian practice.
- Humanitarian practice: ethics of aid, humanitarian technologies, cross-border solidarities, NGO interventions, local versus global responses.



2.0 Main Themes

4. CULTURE, IDENTITY & HERITAGE IN A GLOBALISED WORLD

- Oral traditions, archives, contested histories, indigenous knowledge.
- Creative reinterpretations of heritage through digital media, and design.
- Creative reimaginings: performance art, theatre, film, literature, music, gaming, augmented/virtual reality, and other digital media.

5. DIGITALIZATION, TECHNOLOGY & SOCIETY

- AI, data, surveillance, algorithmic inequality.
- Human creativity in the digital age, STEAM, maker cultures.
- Human creativity in the digital age: new media arts, design thinking, virtual performance, digital storytelling, maker and hacker cultures.
- Algorithmic inequality: bias in machine learning, access divides, representation and discrimination in digital systems.

6. POWER, POLICY & DEVELOPMENT PATHWAYS

- Political economy, governance, inequality, human rights, environmental justice.
- Policy research + critical interventions.



3.0 Who Can Apply?

The conference invites submissions from:

- Undergraduate students from all disciplines.
- Recent graduates (within one year of completing their degree)
- Collaborative work with faculty or postgraduate mentors is allowed, but the undergraduate student must be the primary author and presenter.

Note: The scientific committee reserves the right to review eligibility on a case-by-case basis.

4.0 Forms of Participation

We welcome submissions in diverse formats to encourage diverse forms of academic and creative expression. Participants can select their preferred presentation format from the following options:

- Oral Presentations
- Three-Minute Thesis (3MT) Competition
- Poster Presentations
- Creative Formats (e.g., Films, Installations)

5.0 Modes of Presentations

01 ORAL TALK

Individual presenters will deliver their research papers in a verbal format. Each presenter will have 10–15 minutes to present their work, followed by time for questions and feedback.

02 THREE MINUTE THESIS (3MT®) COMPETITION

The 3MT competition is a chance for students and researchers to showcase their work in a simple, engaging way. Participants have three minutes to explain their research using just one static slide—no videos, animations, or props. The goal is to make complex ideas clear, interesting, and easy to understand for a general audience. A panel of judges will evaluate the presentations, and winners will be announced at the conference.

03 POSTER PRESENTATIONS

This format allows participants to showcase their research in a highly visual way, encouraging greater engagement and interaction. Posters provide an opportunity for presenters to summarize their work through visuals, charts, and concise text, making complex ideas easier to understand.

04 CREATIVE FORMATS

This category is designed for films, art installations, and design projects. Submissions should be accompanied by a brief statement that explains how the creative work connects to one of the conference subthemes. Accepted works will be highlighted through curated exhibition slots, giving participants the opportunity to share their creativity with a wider audience in engaging formats.

6.0 Abstract Submission

A. FOR RESEARCH PAPERS

A complete abstract will be a key part of the selection process and should clearly articulate the research question, methodology, key findings (or expected findings), and its contribution to the field.

Your abstract should include the following elements, under these headings:

- **Title:** A clear and descriptive title.
- **Rationale:** The context, research question, or problem you're addressing.
- **Methods:** The methodological or theoretical framework you used.
- **Results:** A summary of your key findings, including data. Preliminary results are fine as long as they're clearly marked.
- **Conclusions:** The significance, implications, and contributions of your research.
- **Word Limit:** 250 words (excluding title)
- **Formatting:** Single paragraph, 12-point Times New Roman or Arial font.

B. SUBMISSION FOR THREE-MINUTE THESIS (3MT) COMPETITION

Abstract: A structured abstract as outlined in Section 5.A.

This is your chance to present your research in a clear and engaging way for an audience that may not be specialists in your field.

Rules:

- Deliver a three-minute spoken presentation.
- You can use a single static slide (but no animations, transitions, or video).
- No props or additional electronic devices are allowed.
- Presentation must not exceed 3 minutes.

Note on Poster Presentations: For accepted posters, the conference will provide vertical rectangular softboards for display.

Details on poster dimensions, layout, and presentation format will be shared with accepted presenters after notification of acceptance.

Abstract Submission

C. FOR CREATIVE FORMATS

When submitting original creative work, be sure to include an explanatory statement. Your work should serve as a form of research or critical inquiry. Proposals need to have:

Proposals must include:

Title of Work & Contributor(s).

Explanatory Note (250 words): This should explain how your work relates to the conference subthemes (or broader related questions), its conceptual framework, and the impact you hope to achieve.

Duration: Maximum 10 minutes for time-based media (e.g., film, documentary).

File Format: Please specify the required format (e.g., .MP4, .MOV, JPEGs, PDF).

Note on Creative Presentations:

The conference will arrange LED displays/projector screens to support the showcasing of creative work.

The inclusion of creative showcases will depend on the volume and nature of submissions.

General Policies & Requirements

- **Eligibility:** The conference welcomes submissions from undergraduate students across all disciplines, as well as recent graduates who have completed their degree within the past year, such as those who have recently submitted their thesis. The organising committee reserves the right to review eligibility on a case-by-case basis.
- **Originality:** Submissions should be your own original work. While we encourage unpublished work, we also welcome work in progress and pieces that have been previously presented elsewhere.
- **Language:** Everything, from submissions to presentations, must be in English.
- **Submission Limit:** Each individual may submit a maximum of two entries as the presenting author; however, only one submission will be accepted for presentation.
- **Peer Review:** All submissions will go through a double-blind peer review process conducted by the conference committee.
- **Criteria:** We'll be looking at originality, clarity, rigor, relevance to subthemes, and interdisciplinary significance. Creative works will be evaluated based on their conceptual strength, execution, and thematic connection.
- **Registration:** If your submission is accepted, you will be required to register for the conference by the specified deadline in order to confirm your participation.

8.0 How to Submit

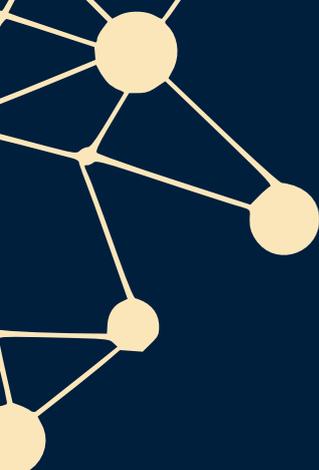
All submissions need to be made electronically through our Google Form:

<https://forms.gle/2HVVG4gCsoYNJvBx6>.

Note: When submitting, applicants will be asked to choose their primary category (Research Paper or Creative Showcase). This selection will remain as indicated. Applicants will also be asked to specify their preferred presentation format (e.g., Oral Presentations, Poster, or 3MT) and subtheme. While these preferences will be taken into account, the Scientific Committee reserves the right to assign submissions to a different format or subtheme to ensure the best fit within the overall program.

9.0 Key Deadlines

- Abstract Submission Deadline: **December 7th, 2025**
- Conference Dates: **February 7th & 8th 2026**



CONTACT DETAILS



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