

Make **Karakoram** your **classroom!**



Expand your learning experience by participating in an exciting collaboration with the University of Baltistan (UoB) in breathtaking Skardu.

Being a participant in this programme will provide unique opportunities to:

- Engage in distinctive, experiential learning about Pakistan
- Deepen your understanding of cross-cultural intelligence.

Programme Duration
Summer Semester (July 12 - August 13, 2023)



What is Learning Without Borders - The Baltistan Experience?

At the foothills of the Karakoram, an exciting new collaboration between LUMS and the University of Baltistan (UoB) was launched last year. This year faculty from LUMS and UoB have designed ten intensive, field-based courses on personal effectiveness, e-commerce, water resources management, green energy, introduction to life and biosciences, entrepreneurship and management in the restaurant industry, tourism: economics, industry and

management, law, tourism and environment, local solutions for energy access and the universe around us.

LUMS alumni will have the opportunity to live and learn together with LUMS and UoB students with the overall goal of experiential learning in an extraordinarily beautiful and natural setting and develop an appreciation of the ancient culture of Baltistan.

Experiential and Peer Learning

The courses will take place in Skardu (30% in-class + 70% in-field) and are designed to include field based work and locally relevant assignments. Your coursework will, for example, have a direct impact on the local communities who you engage with, while you learn.

Each LUMS alum will be paired with a UoB student taking the same course. Throughout each of the courses you will have opportunities to share different perspectives with your paired student associate, support each other's learning, and hopefully make many lifelong friends!

Learning in Your Own Backyard

Alumni will have an opportunity to learn a lot from the courses that are being offered. Those with an interest in Science can experience a "natural laboratory", whereas those interested in Law can champion environmental advocacy - a huge concern for locals. Alumni who have

a passion for Humanities can experience a sociology unique to the many peoples of Baltistan, whereas those with an interest in Business will learn about the emerging culture of start-ups and digital disruption.

Cultural and Ecological Learning

While interacting with, and learning from local communities in Skardu, you will also have a chance to discover local traditions steeped in history, surrounded by a unique geography referred to as the "third pole" - the largest cryosphere after the north and south poles.

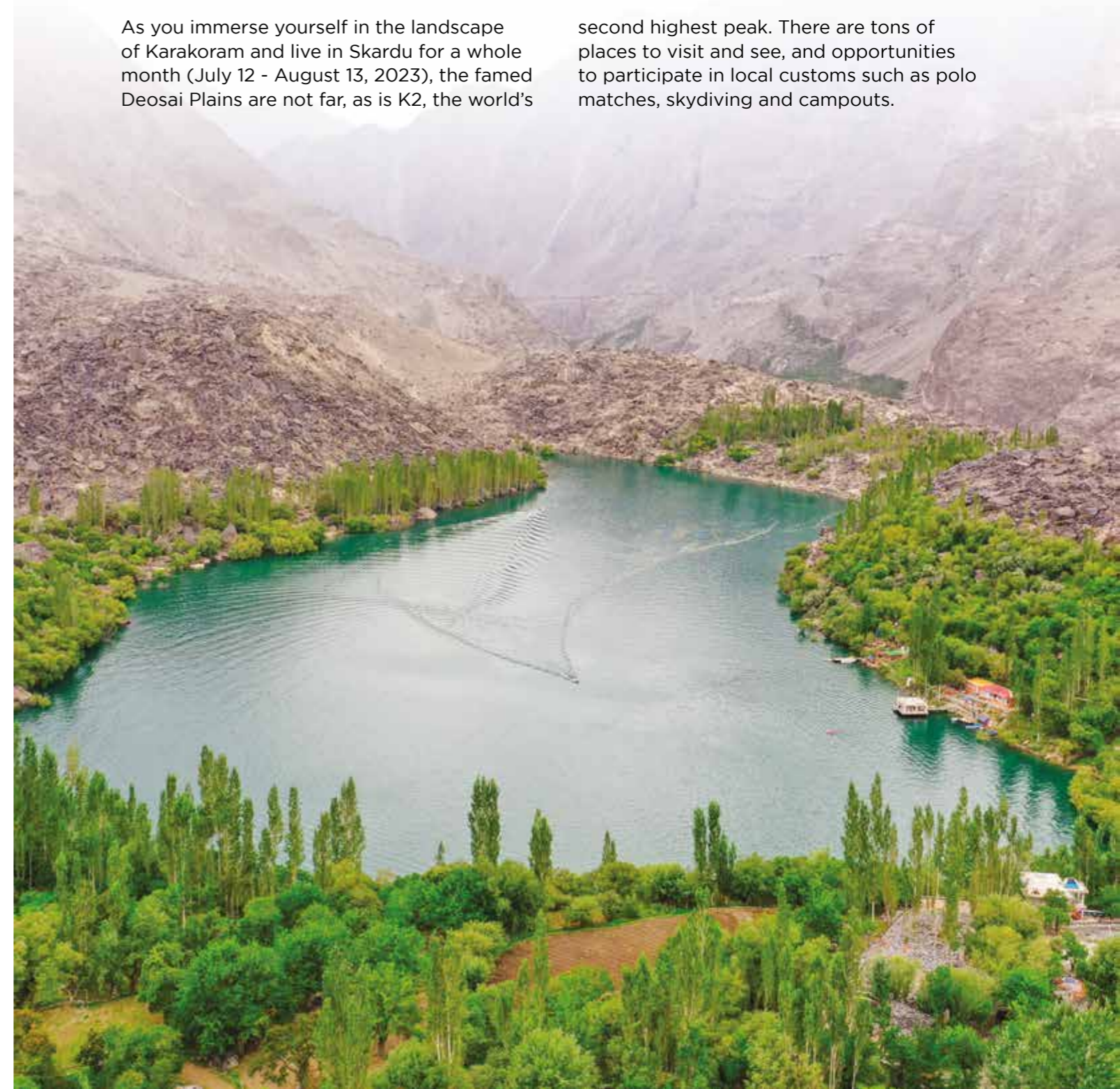
Locals are well known for their generous hospitality and are as protective of guests as they are of the nature that surrounds

them. They follow conservative traditions, have extraordinary respect for elders and are immensely proud of their mountainous life. There is almost 100 per cent literacy and zero crime in Skardu. Local students have a vastly different lifestyle (say, compared to students from cosmopolitan cities in Pakistan) as they often participate in helping at home, working with livestock and in fruit orchards while preparing for harsh winters.

Adventure and Fun While You Learn

As you immerse yourself in the landscape of Karakoram and live in Skardu for a whole month (July 12 - August 13, 2023), the famed Deosai Plains are not far, as is K2, the world's

second highest peak. There are tons of places to visit and see, and opportunities to participate in local customs such as polo matches, skydiving and campsouts.





Courses Offered

You can choose one course from any of the following electives:

Introduction to Life and Biosciences



Instructors: Dr. Muhammad Tariq | Dr. Amir Faisal

The overarching theme of this course is to explore how life is organised, how living organisms develop through interaction with their healthy environment and how abnormalities in this developmental process can cause various diseases owing to the disruptions in a healthy environment. Students will be introduced to a wide range of topics from basics of molecular and cell biology to organismal development; they will also visualize life under the microscope from bacterial to higher eukaryotic cells isolated from the local environment. The course will comprise lectures, and field work, culminating in weekly labs. Fieldwork will result in documentation of flora and fauna of the Baltistan region and health and nutritional information of local population. This will stimulate conversation and a voyage of discovery linked to how the environment around us contributes to our health, how diseases are developed and how treatments and remedies for various diseases can be found from the indigenous environment.

E-Commerce



Instructors: Dr. Aman Abid | Dr. Suleman Shahid

The E-Commerce course is an experiential learning course enabling the participants to understand and create digital marketing and sales channels across geographical boundaries. The participants, working in teams, will be exposed to local business opportunities where they will collaborate with local entrepreneurs in developing and scaling up an e-commerce platform, opening gates to the world for produces from Pakistan. The course is designed to be a mix of in person sessions and field work to understand and implement the intricacies of digital selling, media engagement, pricing, and legal strategies for a global future.

Water Resource Management



Instructors: Dr. Abubakar Muhammad | Dr. Jawairia Ashfaq Ahmad
Dr. Fozia Parveen | Dr. Talha Manzoor

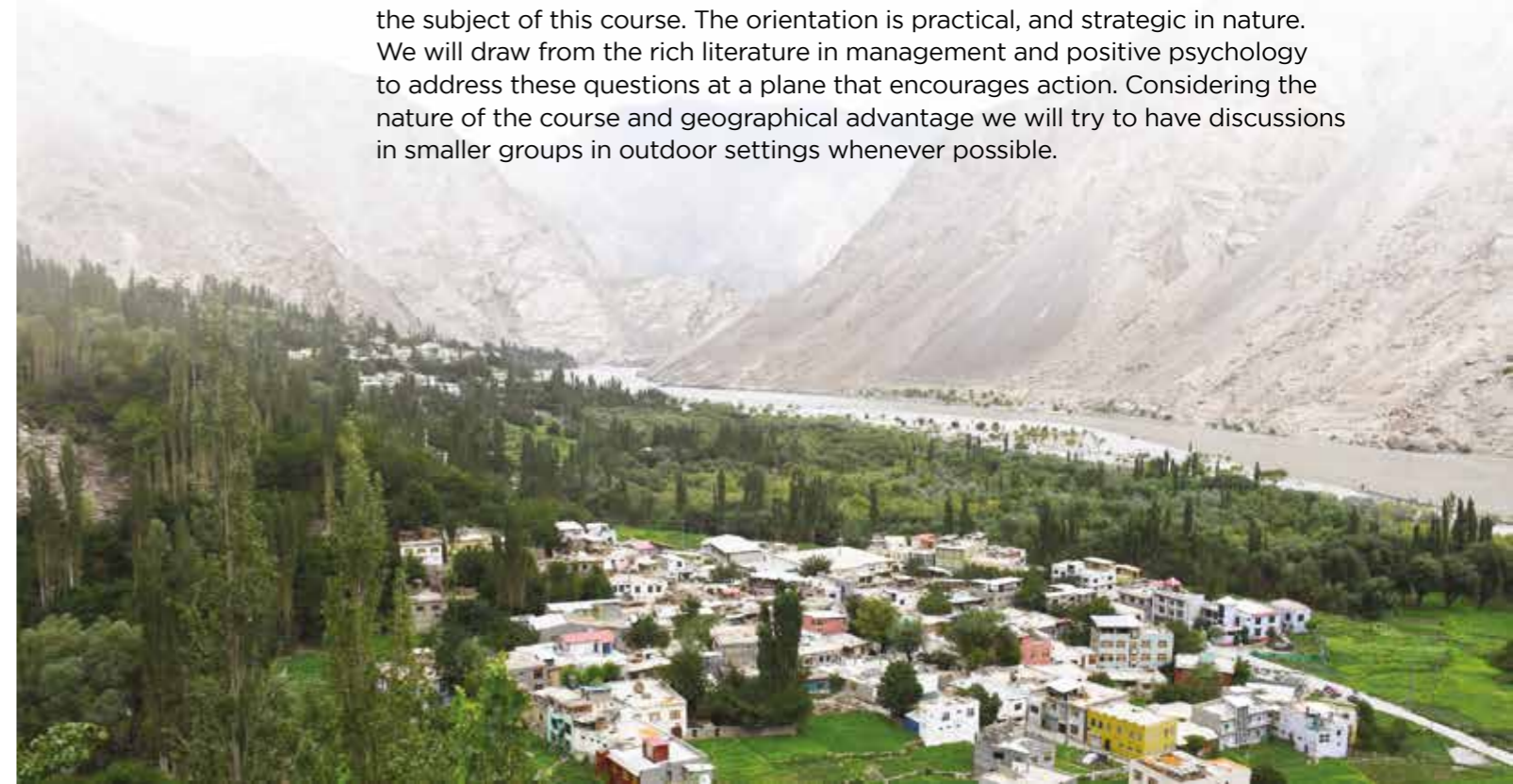
This experiential learning course will provide a field-based introduction to water resources management. This course will use the Gilgit-Baltistan region as a living lab to understand: 1) Water resource use: Irrigation (and agricultural productivity) in high-mountain regions; 2) Hydro-disasters: Glacial Lake outburst floods, flooding, avalanche, rainfall-induced landslides; 3) Land/water management and change due to river sedimentation and river meandering in high mountain regions and 4) Water quality: Drinking water and sanitation in high mountain communities. Students will choose to study these issues in teams in a semester-long exploration. The broader context of the four issues will be sustainable water resource management in the Upper Indus Basin in the wake of climate change and socio-economic changes. The skills learned during the course would include scientific data gathering and data processing, surveys, understanding complex systems, and conveying findings by oral presentations and writing. The course will inculcate values of empathy, adventure, teamwork, community development, love of science, and respect for the environment while increasing domain knowledge in catchment-level hydrology, water-energy-food-climate nexus, and societal changes.

Personal Effectiveness



Instructors: Dr. Adnan Zahid

This experiential learning course has been developed iteratively through multiple executions with undergraduate students and built around frameworks to guide effective living. The premise is that individuals vary in their attitudes, capacities, and ideologies; these unique preferences warrant a variety of frameworks for living fulfilled lives. Through multiple assignments and discussions on self-reflection, the course will help students match a framework or combination of frameworks to their personality, and constraints. It is inspired by courses on wellness that are increasingly becoming a prominent feature of some of the best universities in the world. While engaging in self-reflection, we do not want to veer towards deep existential questions that nonetheless are important, but not the subject of this course. The orientation is practical, and strategic in nature. We will draw from the rich literature in management and positive psychology to address these questions at a plane that encourages action. Considering the nature of the course and geographical advantage we will try to have discussions in smaller groups in outdoor settings whenever possible.





Tourism: Economics, Industry and Management



Instructors: Dr. Syed Turab Hassan | Ms. Shireen Waheed

The experiential learning course is an introduction to the key aspects of tourism that include a description and analysis of the tourism industry, its management across countries and the economic analysis, importance, and impact of tourism in both developed and developing economies particularly with reference to Gilgit-Baltistan. The course is divided into the following sections:



- An overview of the tourism sector covering its global economic importance and impact at present. A historical overview of the development of tourism and travel across different parts of the world.
- A description and analysis of the organisation and management of tourism in the public sector. This would cover global and country specific tourism bodies and associations under the public sector with specific examples of the structure and management of tourism in developing countries such as Pakistan.
- This section will describe and analyse the various private sector industries and services which fall under tourism such as transportation, hospitality, travel agents and different types of tourist activities, sites, and attractions. The analysis would be both from a management and an economic/industrial organisation perspective.
- An analysis of the economics of tourism, policy, and planning. This section would include deriving, estimating, and forecasting the demand and supply of tourism, estimating the macro impact of tourism on GDP, employment, and the impact on balance of payments. It will look at tourism policy and planning across both developed and developing countries, the environmental impact of tourism and sustainable eco-tourism. Focus will be given to tourism policies and strategies developed for the Gilgit-Baltistan region.
- The final section would be focused on methods of tourism research and tourism marketing.

The course includes weekly site visits within the Skardu-Baltistan region. These site visits would be mandatory and form an integral part of the course. Students would be required to write a comprehensive field report (group project) of a selected site at the end of the course. The specific requirements of the report would be communicated to the students.

Law, Tourism and Environment



Instructors: Dr. Faiza Ismail

The beautiful landscape of Gilgit-Baltistan is a tourist attraction from all over the world. The tourism industry is flourishing in this land of beauty. However, while tourism is booming, the environment has to pay the cost. The planned experiential learning course will explore the business of hospitality and tourism in the context of the legal and constitutional status of Gilgit-Baltistan. It will be a life-altering experience that addresses legal, commercial, and environmental issues faced by this breathtaking region. The course will comprise numerous visits to courts, judges, bureaucracy, hotels, and tourist destinations to experience what locals experience in terms of hospitality, law, and environment.

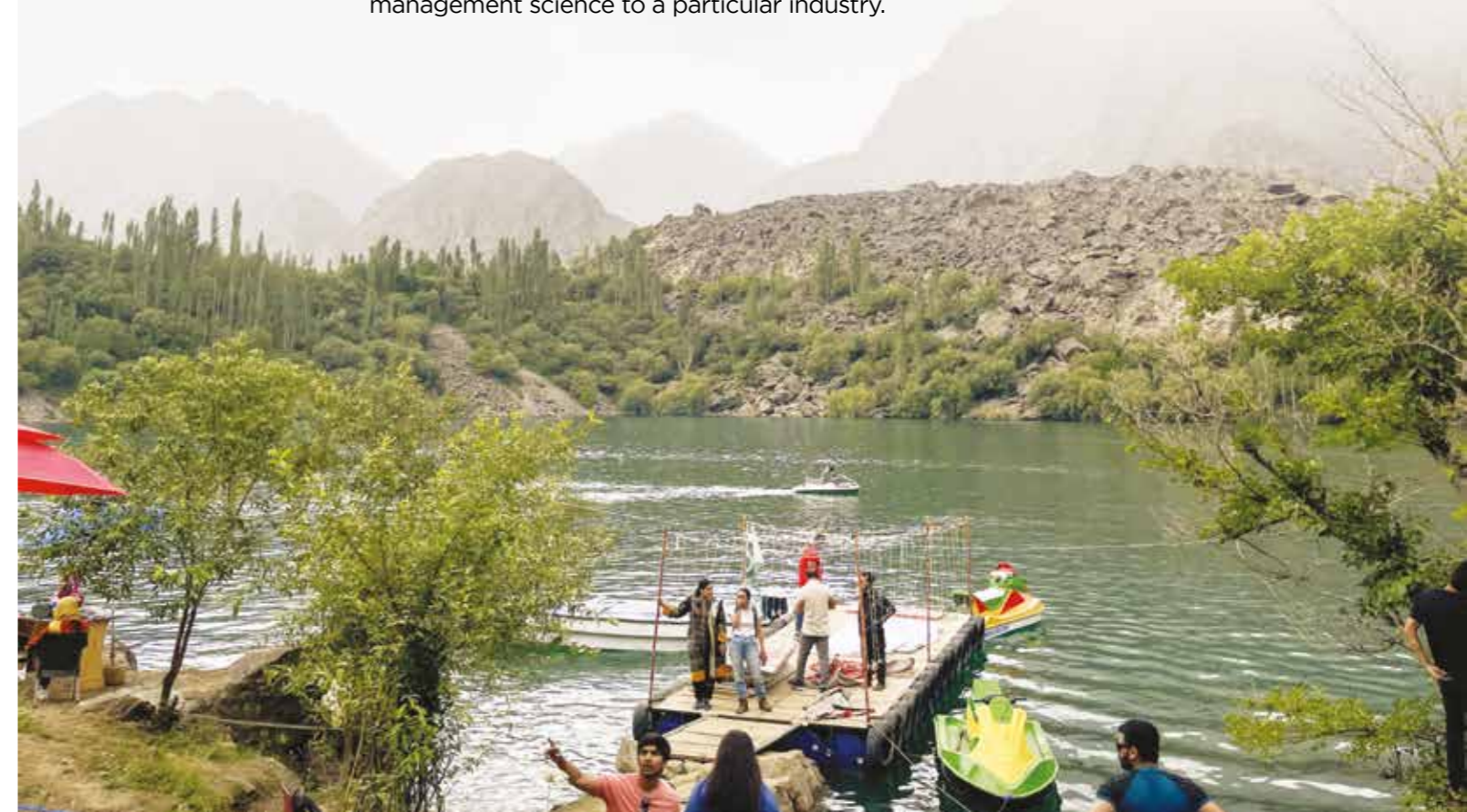
This course aims to address legal issues in the tourism business and the environment to make tourism sustainable. It is divided into four themes: the legal and judicial structure of Gilgit-Baltistan, business law, tourism and hospitality law, and environmental issues.

Entrepreneurship and Management in the Restaurant Industry



Instructors: Ms. Shireen Waheed

The experiential learning course has been designed to expose students to the diverse food and beverage industry and introduce them to the principles of food service operations. Attention is initially focused on major industry segments and business practices. Subsequently, in-depth consideration is given to all the components of the food service system: human resources, menu development, production, service, controls, quality assurance, marketing, and basic financial management. Along with teaching the management tools specific to this industry, local and international examples shall be given to illustrate the concepts. The students will undertake an assignment to create a Food and Beverage concept in Skardu, Gilgit-Baltistan based on their learning from the course. As this is an elective course, students would be expected to apply the core principles of management science to a particular industry.





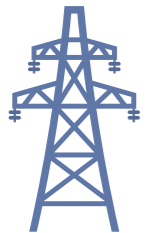
Green Energy



Instructors: Dr. Naveed Arshad | Prof. Nauman Zaffar

This course introduces students to energy sources for generating and harnessing electricity, demand and supply analysis, energy and storage technologies, basic energy economics, green loads, and lifecycle emissions analysis. The course is divided into four modules: (1) Energy Landscape Assessment of Gilgit-Baltistan communities; (2) Green Energy Resource Mapping and Provisioning; (3) Load Assessment and Demand-side Management and (4) Energy Economics and Feasibility Analysis.

Local Solutions for Energy Access



Instructors: Dr. Naveed Arshad | Prof. Nauman Zaffar

This high-level, multi-disciplinary and experiential learning course aims to provide the masters' and senior/junior level undergraduate students with a framework for understanding the energy access sector, to assess local challenges and to offer potential local solutions. The course will offer the following topics

- Distributed energy systems (DES) including future options
- Enabling environment/policy and regulations
- Demand assessment and community engagement
- Business models for increasing community income
- Finance for the DRE sector

The Universe Around Us



Instructors: Dr. Rizwan Khalid | Dr. Sabieh Anwar

This is an introductory course on Astronomy which discusses the physical basis of our understanding of our place in the Cosmos. We will begin with our immediate surroundings to understand important questions about the phases of the moon, eclipses and how we use them to compute the distance scale of the solar system. We will then talk about the processes that power our sun and stars in general. The next step would be understanding the structure of the Universe as a whole as we know it from astronomical observations. We will talk, in particular, about the expanding and accelerating Universe, and how we know it is in a phase of accelerated expansion. All along, we will be focused on why we think the way we think about our Cosmos.

An illuminating feature of this course is understanding the skies around us whose detailed observational study has informed our understanding of the Universe and some of its fundamental physical principles. The course will also take a historical tour of our understanding of Cosmology beginning with the Greek models. The clear night skies of Gilgit-Baltistan will offer us observational evidence of what we will study. We will attempt to photograph the night sky, understand Astrology (and why it has nothing to do with science), and focus our telescope on various objects in the solar system.

For detailed course outlines click [here](#).

