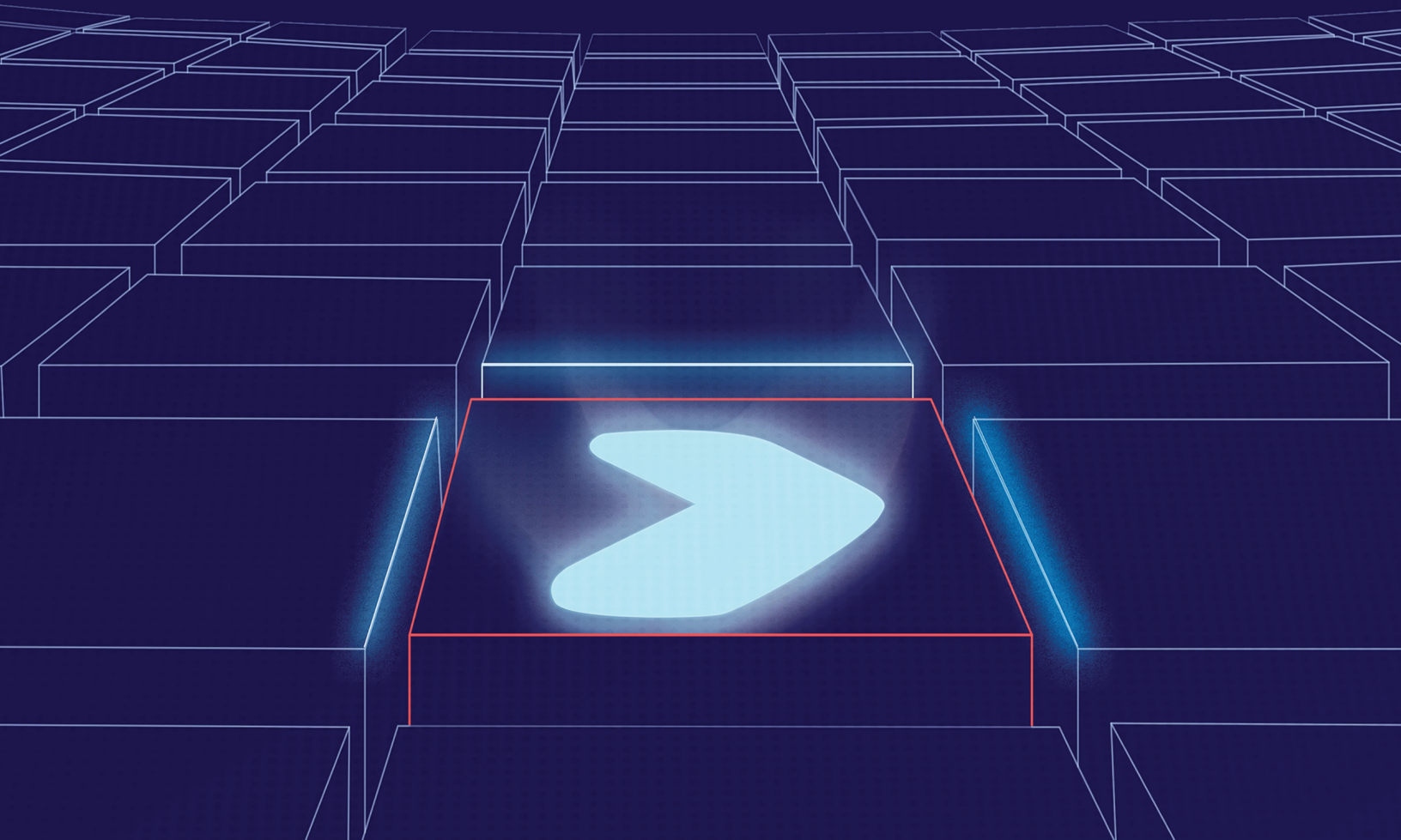


The LUMS^x Perspective

- Volume 3 -



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Table of CONTENTS

06	08	09	10
Director's Message	Our Learning Products	Our Prioritized Domains	Our Learner Demographics
11	12	13	14
Our Learners Top Organisations	Existing Courses	Upcoming Courses	Learner Testimonials
16	17	21	22
Effective teaching Strategies Specialization	Faculty Spotlight	Project Management Specialization	Data Science Specialization
23	26	27	28
Cohorts	STEM for Education	Teaching English as Second Language	Probability
29	30	33	34
Introduction to Political Theory	Live Online Courses	From Chalkboards to Clicks: The Educator's Guide to Visual-First EdTech	Supporting Student Well-being and Pro-Social Skills
37	38	39	42
Partnerships and Collaborations	Elevate Your Productions at the LUMSx Studio	Inside LUMSx	Future Ed Summit 2024
44	46	47	48
Nexus 2025	Internship Program	Student Partners	Beyond Upskilling: Rethinking Ed-Tech for Collective Learning

Director's Message

Dear Colleagues, Students and Friends,

This third edition of The LUMSx Perspective marks a significant milestone in our journey. Three years ago, LUMSx was just an idea, but today, it is a dynamic learning initiative that is reshaping how we think about education in Pakistan. **We now have learners from over 50 cities across all provinces of Pakistan, and professionals have taken our courses from more than 300 organizations nationwide.**

I am pleased to share that within the first funding cycle, we have not only met but exceeded the revenue and impact goals set for us. This progress would not have been possible without the **generous support of the Babar Ali Foundation and the unwavering trust of Syed Babar Ali**, whose belief in our mission has been a guiding light. As we take a moment to reflect on this chapter, we are filled with gratitude and renewed purpose.

LUMSx began with a modest vision. It emerged from a small project within the LUMS Learning Institute (LLI), lacking a dedicated team, space, or infrastructure. We began with questions, not answers. But we were guided by our belief in online learning's transformative impact and in LUMS' mission to reshape education for learners throughout Pakistan.

Three years later, that belief has taken shape in meaningful ways, guided by strategic thinking, continuous reflection, and intentional iteration. From day one, we committed to not only to building learning products but to establishing a robust framework that could adapt to learner needs and a rapidly changing educational landscape. We have regularly revisited and refined our product lines, pedagogical approaches, marketing strategies, and the overall direction. Today, LUMSx is home to over thirty learning products offered in diverse formats across three active and growing product lines: Teaching and Learning, Business and Management, and Data Science and Information Technology. Our specializations, ranging from Data Science and Project Management to Effective Teaching, are helping thousands of learners unlock their potential and find purpose in their professional journeys.

Throughout this journey, we have built meaningful partnerships with leading institutions such as Aga Khan University Institute for Educational Development (AKUIED), Ali Institute of Education, and The Citizens Foundation. These collaborations are testaments to our shared mission: making high-quality, contextually relevant education accessible to all. A highlight of these joint efforts has been the launch of the "Gift-a-Certificate" program to support the upskilling of learners across Pakistan.

Alongside serving external learners, **we remain deeply committed to supporting the LUMS community.** Last year, we launched the first of its kind TA Training Certificate in collaboration

with LLI. This program is designed to equip our teaching assistants with essential pedagogical and classroom management skills. We are also working with the Office of Accessibility and Inclusion (OAI) and the Counselling & Psychological Services (CAPS) on a unique course titled Creating Thriving Communities with Pro-Social Skills and Wellness. This course, tailored for incoming LUMS freshmen, is the first of its kind in Pakistan and underscores our commitment to the well-being and holistic development of students. Furthermore, we have initiated a specialized **skill-building program for students enrolled under the National Outreach Program (NOP)**. These initiatives reflect the holistic portfolio of LUMSx and our vision to support communities in many meaningful ways.

This year, **we also hosted two major events** that represent the spirit of LUMSx. **FutureEd Pakistan** brought together 300+ educators, technologists, and visionaries from across the country to reimagine the future of education and EdTech. At **Nexus 2025**, we celebrated our alumni, an opportunity to reflect on their journeys with us and explore the evolving future of work, learning, and digital transformation in Pakistan.

Yet, as we celebrate how far we've come, we remain acutely aware that this is just the beginning. LUMSx is not just a centre; it is a vision for equity in education. A vision for access and inclusion. A vision for innovation that is rooted in context, relevance, and excellence.

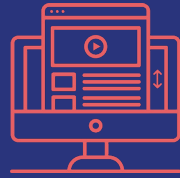
Many years ago, LUMS pioneered a new kind of undergraduate education in Pakistan, one that is high-quality, rigorous, and holistic, aimed at solving critical social issues. With LUMSx, LUMS is now pioneering a new standard for learning in the digital space; one that others can learn from, build on, and take forward. I believe the story of LUMSx is a part of the larger LUMS story, one of persistence, people and purpose.

I am deeply grateful to our faculty collaborators, students, alumni, and partners for walking with us. I am also thankful to the LUMSx team, whose commitment, creativity, and belief in this mission have made all the difference. Once again, **we invite you to join us: to build, to learn, to lead. Together, let us redefine the future of education in Pakistan.**



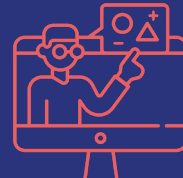
Dr. Suleman Shahid
Faculty Director, LUMSx

Our Learning Products



Self-Paced Courses

Explore our diverse course catalog, from introductory to advanced levels, all developed by experienced industry professionals. Enroll in a program that aligns with your interests to gain immediate access to comprehensive, self-paced learning materials. Progress through weekly modules and checkpoints at your own pace, with content designed to support your individual learning goals.



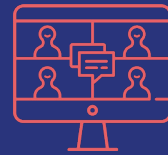
Online Cohort Courses

Our Online Cohort Courses, led by industry experts, offer an immersive learning experience through a mix of live sessions and flexible, self-paced content. Engage with a community of learners in a collaborative virtual classroom that encourages discussion, feedback, and real-world application. Earn a certificate upon completion to showcase your skills and advance your career.



Open CourseWare

Open Courseware provides free, university-level educational content accessible anytime on our YouTube channel. Featuring recorded LUMS classroom lectures by expert faculty, it offers an authentic learning experience you can explore at your own pace.



Live Online Courses

Experience dynamic, real-time learning with our Live Online Courses. Led by expert instructors, these interactive sessions go beyond lectures—fostering discussion, instant feedback, and peer collaboration. Designed to capture the energy of in-person classes, they create a vibrant virtual community that makes online education truly immersive.



Specializations

LUMSx Specializations provide a structured path to professional growth through a series of interconnected nano courses. Each program blends theory with practical application to build domain-specific expertise. Learners follow a coherent pathway, earning a recognized credential that demonstrates proficiency and commitment. Ideal for those advancing careers in education, project management, or data science.

Our Prioritized Domains

As the center for online learning & professional development, we conducted extensive market research to identify domains with significant need for upskilling. Our research has led us to prioritize the following three domains:

Teaching & Education



Attending school does not equate to learning; many of our schools continue to churn out a student population that struggles with foundational numeracy & literacy and is ill-equipped to meet the complex skill demands of the 21st century. In K-12, research is clear about the cause: Teacher and school leadership quality drive student learning - any quality gaps here hinder not only student's learning but also their future earning potential. We, as LUMSx, intend to provide quality digital teacher professional development to improve student learning and enhance the professional mobility of the teacher workforce.

Business & Management



Many Pakistani universities fail to equip students with necessary job market skills, leaving many graduates unemployed or unable to demonstrate key skills like adaptability, communication, leadership, collaboration, problem-solving, and analytical ability. Organizations often lack ongoing professional development programs to upskill employees. While global platforms like Coursera and LinkedIn Learning offer resources, they fall short due to language barriers and lack of localized content. Our goal is to upskill the Pakistani workforce, ensuring they are prepared for both current roles and a rapidly evolving future.

Data Science & Information Technology



Pakistan is currently produces over 25,000 IT graduates annually and is home to more than 300,000 IT professionals. According to the Economic Survey of Pakistan (2020-2021), the compound annual growth rate for IT and related services reached 18.85 per cent, the highest growth rate of any industry in the region. However, despite these growing numbers, there is a huge dearth of skilled workers in this sector, which hampers Pakistan's ability to unlock significant economic value. One important factor that serves as a major obstacle to learning is the lack of sufficient skills training. Our goal is to leverage the immense potential of Pakistan's technology sector and develop specialized programs that help learners upskill in line with local & global needs.

Our Learner Demographics:



68.7%
Female Learners

30+
LUMSx Courses

36.2%
Learners From Non-Metropolitan Cities

300+
Organizations Represented By Our Learners

Our Learners Top Organizations:

250+ Organizations



Existing Courses

	Self-Paced	Online Cohort	Specialization
Teaching and Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none">» Teaching Practice: Fundamentals of the 5E Model» Course Design & Development» سیکھنا سیکھیں» AI in the classroom:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">» Fundamentals of Project Based Learning» Course Design & Development» AI in the classroom: Strategies and tools for educators» STEM for Educators» Teaching English as second language	<ul style="list-style-type: none">» Effective Teaching Strategies Specializations
Business and Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none">» Project Management» Business communication: Transformative strategies for professional growth	<ul style="list-style-type: none">» Project Management» The Art of Persuasion: Mastering Interpersonal Dynamics and Negotiations	<ul style="list-style-type: none">» Project Management Specialization
Data Science and IT		<ul style="list-style-type: none">» Introduction to Data Science» Machine Learning	<ul style="list-style-type: none">» Data Science Specialization
Personal Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none">» Health and Wellness - A Manual» پشتو زبان سیکھیں: ایک آن لائن ابتدائی کورس» فارسی سیکھیں - ایک تعارفی آن لائن کورس		

Upcoming Courses

- » **Entrepreneurship 101**

Entrepreneurship 101 is a beginner-friendly course that helps turn ideas into action. Covering design thinking, strategy, finance, legal basics, and pitching, it equips you with the skills to launch and grow a venture or drive innovation in any field.
- » **Islamic Finance**

Islamic Finance is an upcoming course designed for finance professionals across Pakistan. It introduces key foundational concepts and practical methodologies for implementing Shariah-compliant financial frameworks within institutional settings.
- » **Fundamentals of Project Based Learning**

Fundamentals of Project-Based Learning introduces K-8 teachers to a dynamic, student-centered methodology where learning unfolds through real-world problem solving. The course emphasizes critical thinking, collaboration, and creativity, guiding educators in designing and implementing hands-on projects that connect classroom concepts to authentic challenges.
- » **Machine Learning II**

The Advanced Machine Learning course explores powerful models like decision trees, ensemble methods, clustering, and reinforcement learning. Taught by Dr. Agha Ali Raza, it blends theory with hands-on practice, ideal for those ready to apply advanced ML techniques in real-world scenarios.
- » **Early Childhood Education**

Discover the foundations of early childhood education and learn how to create nurturing, stimulating environments for young learners. This course equips educators with essential strategies to support cognitive, social, and emotional development in children aged 0-8.
- » **Data Analytics and Visualization**

Data Analytics and Visualization offers a hands-on, industry-focused introduction to Microsoft Power BI. Learners will explore the full data analysis lifecycle, from connecting and transforming data to building dashboards, through practical case studies, preparing them for Power BI certification or a career in data analytics.
- » **Online Certificate in Digital Health**

Learners will explore how AI-driven assistants can streamline routine clinical and administrative tasks, apply data analytics techniques to interpret datasets, identify trends, and inform evidence-based care; navigate the ethical, privacy, and security considerations of handling sensitive health information and adopt and integrate digital tools.

Explore Now





Lubna Ahsan for **Effective Teaching Strategies Specialization**
Montessori school Educator, Quetta

While looking for a reputable institute, I came across LUMSx and enrolled in their online course on Effective Teaching Strategies. My main goal was to refresh my knowledge and learn modern teaching methodologies and technologies. I realized my previous skills were outdated, and this course seemed like the perfect opportunity to evolve.

My experience at LUMSx was exceptional. The instructors, Ma’am Sania, Sir Zain, and Azma Humayun, were not just teachers; they were mentors and counselors who provided valuable feedback and support during live sessions. The whole team was incredibly responsive, with round-the-clock assistance that made the online experience smooth and interactive.

This was my first time enrolling in an online course, and I initially had doubts about completing it. But thanks to the motivational support from the team, I successfully completed three courses and received certifications for each. I learned so much through peer discussions, live sessions, and collaborative activities. It felt like I was part of a learning community, not just an online class.

I highly recommend this course to all educators. Often, we don’t realize where we’re falling behind until we challenge ourselves to grow. Teaching today is not the same as it was, it’s dynamic and constantly evolving. Through this course, I discovered where I needed improvement and learned what modern teaching truly looks like.

I’m grateful to LUMSx for reigniting my passion and helping me grow as an educator.

Amina Mohsin for **AI in the Classroom: Strategies & Tools for Educators**

Teacher, Beaconhouse Ring Road Campus

I had the opportunity to take the AI in the Classroom course. It has truly been a wonderful learning experience. Through this course, I’ve gained valuable insights into how to use artificial intelligence effectively in an educational setting.

Madiha Rizwan Sulehri for **AI in the Classroom: Strategies & Tools for Educators**

CPD Head, The Learning Hub Gujranwala Campus

The mix of online and in-person sessions made the complex concepts much easier to grasp, and I loved the interactive nature of the classes.

Zuhaa Shehzad for **Project Management Specialization**

Sales and Marketing, Honda Atlas Cars Pakistan Ltd

I gained a deeper understanding of the project manager’s role, when and how management should be involved, and why stakeholder input and feedback are critical to a project’s success.

Fahad Asif for **Project Management Specialization**

Management Executive, Competition Commission of Pakistan

This specialization was a fantastic introduction to project management! It helped me understand key terminologies in PM while making complex concepts much clearer.

Shah Hussain for **Project Management Specialization**

IT Officer, Aga Khan Cultural Service Pakistan

The specialization offered a thorough and well-rounded overview of essential project management principles, including planning, scheduling, budgeting, and risk management.

Rania Nasir for **Effective Teaching Strategies Specialization**

Super Tutor, Dot and Line Learning

My experience throughout this course has been extremely insightful. In every module, I learned something amazing, which has been very helpful in refining my teaching practice

Hina Irfan for **Teaching English as a Second Language**

Senior VP and HOD, Bahria Town School and College

I particularly appreciated the focus on modern tools and techniques, which equipped me with skills to adapt to the dynamic needs of English language learners

Maria Gull for **AI in the Classroom: Strategies & Tools for Educators**

Senior Section Coordinator & Biology Teacher, Beaconhouse

From understanding AI tools to addressing ethical concerns, the learning experience has empowered me to drive meaningful change in my school.

Effective Teaching Strategies Specialization

LUMSx's Effective Teaching Strategies specialization is equipping K-8 educators across Pakistan with the skills needed to build engaging, inclusive, and well-managed classrooms. With enrollments from across the country, **the three-course program spanning Classroom Management, Differentiated Instruction, and Assessment Development offers practical strategies that improve student outcomes.**

"This course was a valuable learning experience. It helped me understand effective teaching strategies and how to apply them in real classroom situations. The content was clear, well-structured, and easy to relate to. I feel more confident in planning lessons and using different assessment methods. I would recommend this course to other teachers looking to improve their teaching practice."

Noor-e-Amina, The City School

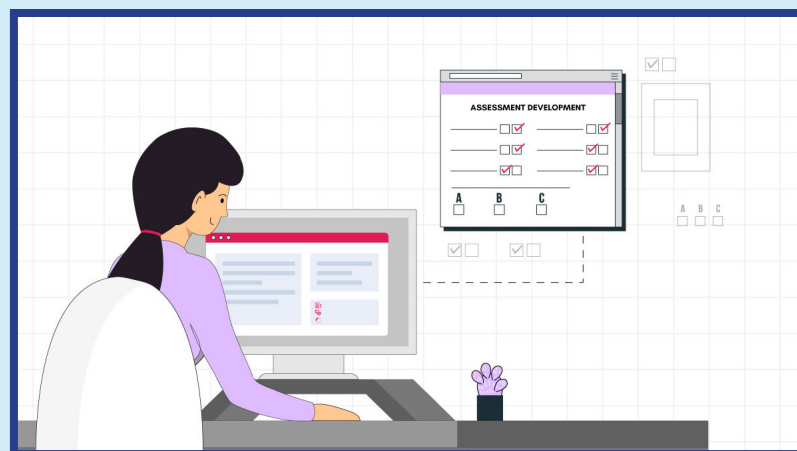
What sets this specialization apart is the rich blend of academic insight and field experience. Educators learn from experts representing leading organizations such as Durbeen, The Citizens Foundation, and Beaconhouse Group, gaining grounded perspectives on teaching in diverse contexts. Designed specifically for the Pakistani classroom, this course helps teachers strengthen their portfolios and teaching practice through expert-led, hands-on learning.



Differentiated Instruction - Zain Murtaza Maken



Classroom Management - Sannia Hussain



Assessment Development - Azma Humayun



Enroll Now

Effective Teaching Strategies Specialization

In Pakistan's diverse and evolving educational landscape, K-8 teachers are continuously seeking ways to create engaging, inclusive, and effective classrooms. The Effective Teaching Strategies specialization was designed with this very purpose in mind – to equip educators with practical tools grounded in local realities. **The specialization comprises three nano-courses: Classroom Management, Differentiated Instruction, and Assessment Development.** Through this series, teachers not only master foundational skills in the art of teaching but also learn from academic and industry experts to build a strong teaching portfolio.

In this faculty spotlight, we hear directly from **Sannia Hussain, Zain Murtaza Maken, and Azma Humayun**, the instructors behind each course, as they reflect on their teaching philosophies, the design process, and their hopes for how this specialization will support educators across Pakistan.



Azma Humayun
Educational Consultant,
Development Sector



Sannia Hussain
Adjunct Faculty Member,
School of Education, LUMS



Zain Murtaza Maken
Education Consultant
M.E.d. International Education
Policy and Management, Vanderbilt
University

1- What drew you to contribute to the Effective Teaching Strategies specialization?

Sannia: It is very important for me to be able to empower teachers to become better classroom practitioners. I have known teachers to struggle with classroom teaching and unfortunately, due to the lack of appropriate teacher training programs, the average teacher is not equipped to deal with classroom issues. Hence, this seemed like an ideal opportunity to share my knowledge, expertise and experiences with teachers who aim to improve and develop their practice.

Zain: As a teacher, I was always interested in wanting to identify the key practices that were most critical for student success in the classroom, and I felt that this specialization provided me an opportunity to build upon my learnings as a teacher and a teacher educator in service of collective learning.

Azma: It is very heartening to see today’s teachers making efforts to receive teacher training to improve the learning experiences of their students. Such trainings increase a teacher’s effectiveness multifold. When I learned of the specialization, I was keen on contributing to help design a training experience for teachers that is joyful and meaningful for them.

Building Stable Classrooms

For teaching to be effective It is crucial that the learning environment for students is both positive and productive. Sannia Hussain is an experienced teacher trainer and instructional coach. Her work has focused on designing and delivering large-scale professional

development programs and supporting school improvement efforts through teacher capacity-building. Her course, Classroom Management, explores classroom dynamics, behavior management, and student-centered approaches, enabling teachers to establish routines, encourage positive behavior, and handle disruptions effectively.

2- What are some common misconceptions teachers have about classroom management?

Sannia: Usually, teachers believe that maintaining discipline through a strict attitude is going to help with classroom management, which makes them resort to punishment and reprimand.

Another misconception is the idea that students misbehave because they don’t want to learn or don’t want to behave appropriately. Teachers think that classroom management is a one size fits all phenomenon. Another commonly held belief is that management consumes extra time in the classroom and interferes with teaching. They feel that it takes too much time to build rapport with students and establish routines. Of course, these are not strictly true, and we have tried to debunk these myths with apt examples and strategies through our course.

Meeting Diverse Needs

If classroom management helps create the conditions for learning, differentiated instruction ensures that every student can access and thrive within those conditions. Zain Murtaza Maken is a learning designer and teacher educator with extensive experience in both urban and low-resource contexts. His course, Differentiated Instruction, introduces teachers to key principles and practical strategies to meet the diverse needs of students in Pakistan. Teachers learn how to

differentiate content, process, and assessment, in various contexts.

3- How does technology support or hinder differentiated instruction in our local context?

Zain: Technology can be a useful aid because it can support educators in effectively differentiating the learning content, learning process and learning products in their classrooms. For example, teachers may leverage WhatsApp/SMS or other low-cost communication tools/ devices to share lesson summaries that are levelled; audio clips could be shared with students struggling with reading; teachers can also access learning ideas & learning content online and tailor based on their contexts - tech, of course, offers teachers to tap into a wider community of practice that they can then adapt.

not to test the student, provide grades and decide who gets promoted. Learning is not a sport and shouldn’t be a competition, so giving positions and grades are never the end-goal of an education system. Instead, assessments are a vital tool for

the teacher to understand their own performance in the classroom, so that they can be more self-reflective and engage in self-improvement measures, allowing them, in turn, to help their students be more self-reflective and independent learners.

The Future of Digital Learning in Pakistan

Guiding Instruction, Driving Student Success

If classroom management lays the groundwork for a safe and supportive learning environment, and differentiated instruction ensures that each learner can access and engage with the content meaningfully, then assessment development is what allows teachers to reflect on both the learning & teaching; to understand where students are and adapt their teaching accordingly. Azma Humayun brings extensive experience in curriculum development, teacher education, and instructional design. Her course, Assessment Development, equips teachers with skills to design fair, inclusive, and effective assessments that measure student learning and guide them improve their instruction.

4- What do you hope teachers take away from your course in terms of skills or mindset regarding assessment development?

The biggest thought I hope the teachers take away from this is that the purpose of an assessment is

When asked about the broader potential of digital education in Pakistan, all three instructors emphasized its ability to provide flexibility, democratize access and encourage innovation.

Sannia: Engagement is crucial for learning in any kind of training. Since the world has transformed to digitization after COVID-19, it has become essential for teachers to adapt to online platforms in education. Providing an online experience of teacher training helps them to have first-hand experience themselves, which in turn allows them to transfer the learning experience to their students. Also, it is convenient to do so at their own pace; that is, it is self-paced. This allows ample time for doing the tasks and reflecting on them thoroughly.

Zain: It refines our understanding of what is possible in low-resourced contexts. Too often we reject the role of technology because of the contexts that most of our classrooms exist in, but digital education, while acknowledging the context, offers low-cost and creative ways to lean on technology in service of student learning.

Azma: Oftentimes good experts are based in large cities, so learners in smaller cities and villages do not get access to proper learning/training opportunities. Even in larger cities, if one is working a full-time job, they might not be able to spare time to attend any professional development courses. Digital education provides an excellent opportunity in such situations, where learners can connect with experts from around the globe at a convenient time for them. It also allows learners to connect and collaborate with peers who may have very different experiences from them.

Final Reflections: Advice for Today’s Teachers

We closed the conversation by asking instructors to share one piece of advice for today’s educators. Their responses reflect a shared belief in continuous learning and deep commitment to students.

Sannia: Teaching is a sacred profession; the profession of Prophets. Even if you started this career accidentally or by default, it is now up to you to make it a career of your choice. For this, continuous professional development is the key that will open doors for greater professional practices and for you to become agents of change in the educational landscape of Pakistan. I would strongly recommend you make maximum use of any teacher training opportunities or certifications that you come across and make them an integral part of your professional practice.

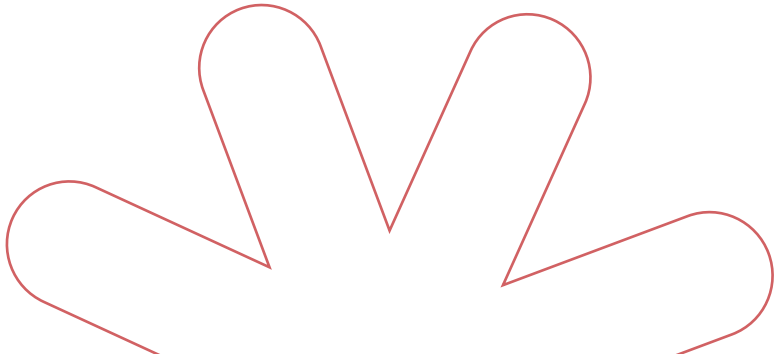
Zain: Will lean on one of my favorite quotes: teaching is the easiest job, until done well. The meaning I draw from this is that the north star in terms of what we can do for our students’ learning has the potential to always push us to show up each day in the classroom

with more clarity, being more equipped, feeling more confident and grounded, all in service of ensuring our students receive the very best that each of them deserves.

Azma: To be able to live a healthy fulfilling life in the constantly evolving 21st century, children of today need to learn how to become independent, lifelong learners. My advice for today’s teachers is to make their main goal for students be to help them become independent learners. Meaning that they should no longer think of teaching as transferring information to students, but to think of their role as creating an environment where students learn by themselves. This requires teachers themselves to adapt and grow to fulfill the needs of the 21st-century education system. **Identify organisations/ professionals** that you think may be doing a good job in creating independent-thinkers and learn from them.

Closing Thoughts

The Effective Teaching Strategies specialization represents more than just three standalone courses. It is a collective call to reimagine teaching in Pakistan, one that enables dynamic, engaging, and supporting learning environments. With expert guidance from passionate educators like Sannia, Zain, and Azma, this specialization invites teachers to become reflective practitioners who lead with purpose and ensure the success of each student in the classroom.



Project Management Specialization

LUMSx has successfully run two cohorts of the Project Management Specialization, designed to build essential skills for leading projects in today’s fast-paced world. **The specialization includes two core courses: Project Management and The Art of Persuasion, blending technical tools with communication strategies to drive results.**

Learners gain hands-on experience with Agile, Scrum, and real-world case studies, alongside an optional Business Communication course—recommended for recent graduates and early-career professionals.

“This specialization clarified key project management concepts and boosted my confidence. The interactive sessions and real-world examples made learning practical and engaging.”

– Ahad Asif, Management Executive, Competition Commission of Pakistan

This specialization equips professionals with the skills to plan, execute, and lead projects successfully



Project Management - Jazib Zahir & Kamil Hassan



The Art of Persuasion - Atif Rahim Khan



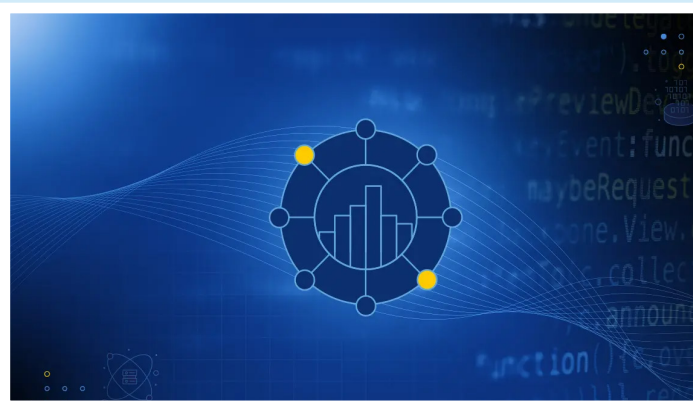
Enroll Now

Data Science Specialization

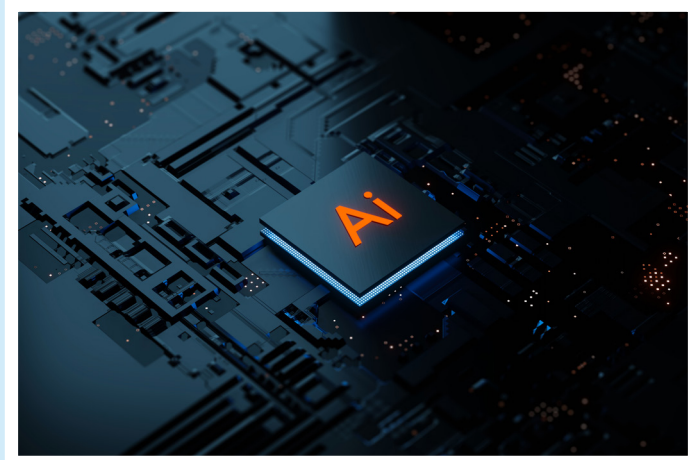
The LUMSx Data Science Specialization has successfully completed its first cohort. Designed for professionals seeking to upskill in data science and machine learning, the program offers rigorous video lessons, expert-evaluated assessments, and recorded tutorials. Learners also benefit from live sessions, office hours, and industry talks, gaining deep insights into current trends and career paths.

“I began my data science journey two years ago and have taken many online courses, but the Data Science Specialization by LUMSx—featuring Introduction to Data Science and Machine Learning—stands out for its clarity, structure, and real-world focus. Despite coming from a Mechanical Engineering background with no prior experience in this field, the engaging teaching styles of Dr. Ihsan and Dr. Agha Ali Raza made complex topics easy to understand. The hands-on exercises, timely support from faculty and TAs, and the flexibility of the LUMSx platform helped me gain practical skills and the confidence to apply data science and deploy basic ML models—something I never thought possible before.”

— Talha Ashfaq, Engineer, Heavy Mechanical Complex



Introduction to Data Science - Dr. Ihsan Ayub Qazi



Machine Learning - Dr. Agha Ali Raza



Enroll Now



The Art of Persuasion: Mastering Interpersonal Dynamics and Negotiations

The ‘Art of Persuasion’ course was offered to working professionals as part of the Project Management Specialization. It is designed to help individuals craft effective professional communication and drive desired actions or outcomes.

The course equips learners with a diverse set of skills and techniques, including how to deliver persuasive pitches, strategically build professional networks, navigate difficult personalities and situations, and negotiate with confidence and impact.

“I really enjoyed the Art of Persuasion course. It was well-structured, the content was practical, and the instructor made each session engaging. Honestly, I was a bit unsure about online learning at first, but this course completely changed my perception. It felt interactive and meaningful, and I walked away with skills I can actually use in real life. Highly recommend it to anyone looking to improve their communication!”

— Wafa, Senior Solutions Consultant, 7vals



AI in the Classroom: SOE x LUMSx

LUMSx, in collaboration with the LUMS School of Education, successfully launched “AI in the Classroom: Strategies and Tools for Educators”, a four-week hybrid training designed for school teachers in Lahore and nearby areas. The program aimed to equip educators with practical strategies to integrate AI into everyday teaching.

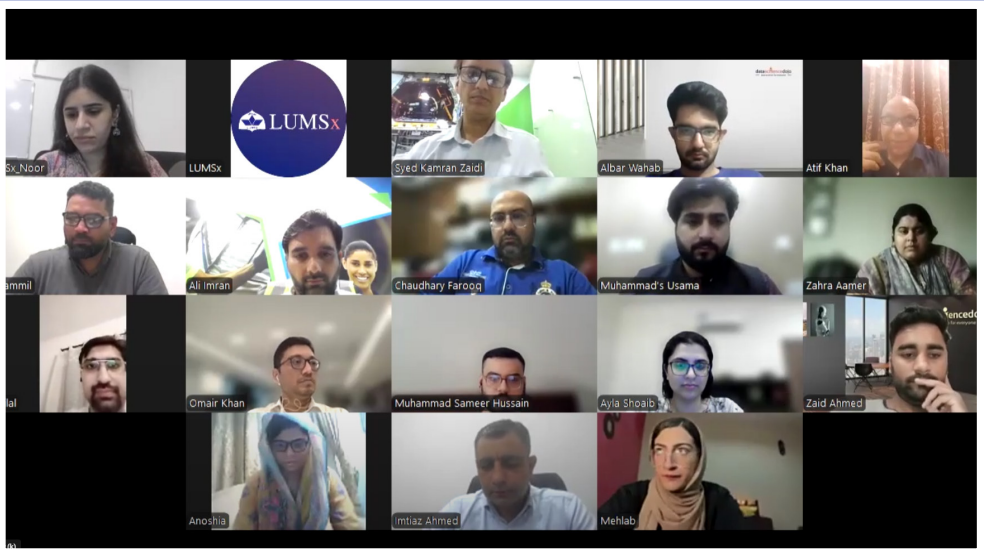
Through a mix of three in-person sessions at LUMS and online learning, participants explored tools like ChatGPT, lesson planners, and AI-driven assessment platforms. Facilitated by Sameen Asghar and Dr. Suleman Shahid, the course helped teachers confidently use AI to enhance lesson delivery, personalize learning, and boost student engagement.

The program brought together educators from a wide range of institutions, including Lahore Grammer School, Nilat School, Scarsdale, Beaconhouse School and Jadeed Dastagir Gujranwala. Teachers praised

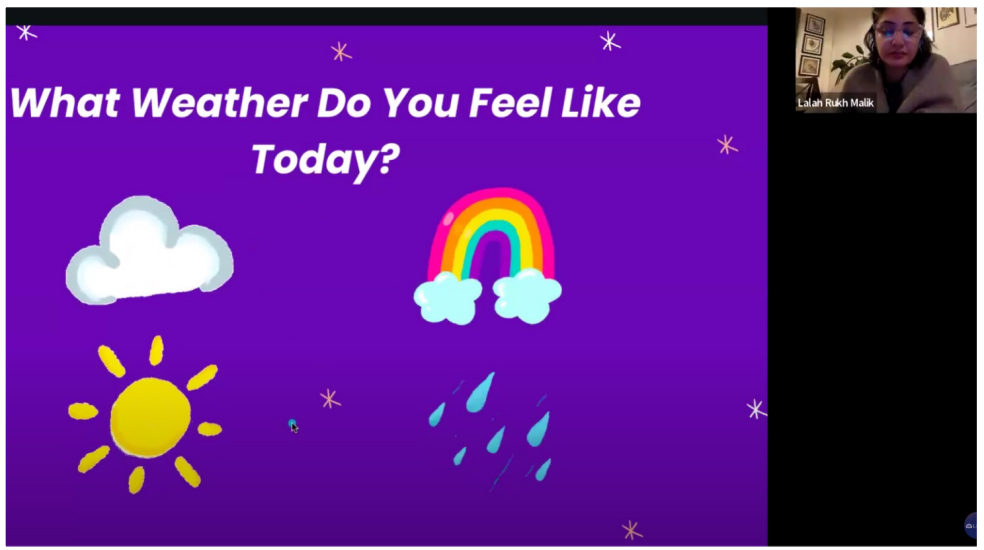
the local relevance of the content and the opportunity to apply AI tools in real classroom contexts.

As part of their final submission, students designed their own prototypes, which showcased their understanding and application of the course concepts.

“This course has not only deepened my understanding of various AI tools but also empowered me to integrate them effectively into the classroom. These tools are helping me guide students to think more critically and reflectively. Moreover, the course offered valuable insight into how we, as educators, can align our teaching strategies with evolving AI policies and ensure the tools are used meaningfully.”
- Maria Gul, Senior Section Coordinator,
Beaconhouse Defence Ring Road Campus



Managing USD - Live Online Cohort Session



Mastering Science Communication - Live Online Cohort Session



Interior Design - Live Online Cohort Session

STEM FOR EDUCATORS

Instructor:



Dr. Tasneem Anwar

Assistant Professor
Science/ STEM Education

About this Course

The 'STEM for Educators' course was developed for Grades 4-8 science and mathematics teachers in response to Pakistan's revised National Curriculum (NCP, 2022-23), which emphasizes integrated STEM learning.

Offered in partnership with Aga Khan University, this hybrid course combines five asynchronous modules with two live Zoom sessions, ensuring flexible yet engaging learning. It has been successfully delivered to two cohorts of passionate educators across Pakistan.

Educators learn to design integrated STEM units, plan inquiry-based lessons, and foster critical thinking through real-world applications.

"Enrolling in the STEM for Educators course was a transformative experience. It deepened my understanding of interdisciplinary teaching and equipped me with practical strategies to make STEM engaging and relevant. I now feel more confident designing lessons that foster critical thinking and creativity in the classroom."

— Khushbakht, Fatima Fertilizer School



Enroll Now

TEACHING ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE

Instructor:



Sannia Hussain

Adjunct Faculty Member,
School of Education, LUMS

About this Course

Having guided over 500 educators through six successful cohorts, this course continues to inspire teachers to rethink how they teach English as a second language. A hybrid course, TESL blends self-paced videos with live sessions, encouraging reflection on practical strategies across listening, speaking, reading, and writing.

Many participants find the focus on lesson planning, assessment, and modern language teaching tools especially valuable. Hina Irfan, Senior VP at Bahria Town School and College, reflects, **"The course made complex ideas clear and gave me new ways to support my students' learning."**

For educators looking to deepen their skills and adapt to today's dynamic classrooms, TESL offers both guidance and community to grow confidently in their practice.



Enroll Now

PROBABILITY

Instructor:



Dr. Adam Zaman
Associate Professor, Syed Babar Ali school of Science & Engineering

About this Course

This course offers a comprehensive introduction to classical mechanics, the branch of physics that deals with the motion of objects and the forces that cause this motion. Starting with fundamental concepts such as kinematics, Newton’s laws, and energy conservation, the course builds toward more complex topics like rotational dynamics, oscillations, and gravitation. The objective is to help students develop a strong conceptual and mathematical foundation in mechanics, which is essential for all future studies in physics and engineering. Real-life applications, problem-solving techniques, and laboratory experiments will be integrated throughout to reinforce theoretical understanding.



Access course on Youtube

INTRODUCTION TO POLITICAL THEORY

Instructor:



Taimur Rehman
Associate Professor- Computer Science
Syed Babar Ali School of Science & Engineering

About this Course

This course provides a foundational understanding of political theory and the key concepts that have shaped political thought throughout history. It introduces students to the ideas of justice, liberty, equality, democracy, and power, and explores how these concepts have evolved over time. Through critical engagement with classical and modern political philosophers, the course will equip learners with the tools to analyze contemporary political systems and ideologies. Emphasis will be placed on connecting theoretical frameworks with current political events and movements, encouraging students to think critically and independently about the role of politics in society.



Access course on Youtube

LIVE-ONLINE COURSES

LUMSx is launching a new round of live online (synchronous) courses for Summer 2025. These offerings cater to professionals and learners looking to build targeted skills through real-time interaction and guided instruction. Each course is led by industry experts and offers practical, applied learning designed to meet evolving workplace and creative demands.

Video Creation for Digital Media

This course introduces participants to the complete video production cycle, from scripting and storyboarding to animation and editing, using accessible tools like Canva, CapCut, and Adobe Premiere. It is designed for individuals with no prior experience who want to learn how to independently create compelling digital video content.

Who's Teaching



Rehab Maqsood
Pre-Production Lead
LUMSx



Faryal Aslam
Senior Visual Designer
and Animator
LUMSx



Shahrukh Sami
Production Lead
LUMSx

Interior Design

Focusing on design as a form of spatial storytelling, this course takes participants through the principles of interior design, from concept development to execution, with an emphasis on style, material use, space planning, and user needs. Projects are grounded in both global design perspectives and local context.

Who's Teaching



Sofia Wanchoo Mir
Architect and interior designer with a
Master's from Domus Academy, Milan

Robotic Process Automation (RPA) for Professionals

A practice-oriented course aimed at introducing RPA tools and workflows, especially for finance and business contexts. Participants engage in building automation bots using Microsoft Power Automate to improve task efficiency and decision-making processes.

Who's Teaching



Faizan Irshad
Fellow Chartered Accountant
ICAP



Abdul Rauf
CEO
Bizware Private Limited

Microsoft Excel for Finance Professionals

Targeting professionals in finance and business roles, this course covers advanced Excel features and tools used for modeling, analysis, and reporting. It blends technical instruction with practical use cases from the field.

Who's Teaching



Jahangir Sachwani
Founder and CEO
Innovinc Consulting

Python for Beginners

This introductory course is designed to build foundational programming skills in Python, with an emphasis on data structures, logical thinking, and real-world problem solving. Sessions combine interactive instruction with hands-on coding practice.

Who's Teaching



Dr. Waqas Javed
Head of Data Analytics and AI
Bank of Punjab

From Chalkboards to Clicks: The Educator's Guide to Visual-First EdTech

By Faryal Aslam

Summary:

No matter how eager you are to learn, it's easy to get lost in a sea of words when you're reading from a tablet or computer/Laptop.

Myth: visuals are just decoration and don't really impact learning.

Fact: In today's digital classrooms, visual design is not just decoration—it's a fundamental tool for enhancing learning. Strong visual design directly impacts how learners engage, navigate, and retain information, whether you're building a learning management system (LMS), an educational app, or digital learning content.

1. Visual Design as a Learning Aid

Good design reduces cognitive load. It helps learners focus on the key message, clarifying complex concepts through diagrams, infographics, and visual hierarchy. Color, typography, and layout can signal importance, draw attention, and support memory recall—especially for neurodiverse or ESL learners.

2. Content Execution & Delivery

Design affects how content is structured and digested. Chunking information into sections, using icons to represent concepts, and embedding interactive visuals can transform passive reading into active learning. Without good design, even the best content can feel inaccessible.



3. Navigation & User Experience

If students can't find their way through the platform, they can't learn effectively. Intuitive navigation, responsive layouts, and consistent visual patterns help learners and teachers spend less time figuring out the interface and more time learning.

Final Thought:

Visual design in Ed-Tech isn't optional—it's **pedagogical**. It shapes how information is processed, how learners interact with content, and how effective digital education becomes. As we design for the future of learning, investing in visual clarity, consistency, and creativity is non-negotiable.

Supporting Student Well-being and Pro-Social Skills: A Critical First Step at LUMS

By Dr. Suleman Shahid

The transition from school to university is one of the most transformative and often, most challenging periods in a student's life. First-year students are expected to navigate new academic expectations, social norms, and personal responsibilities, often without the tools or awareness to manage the emotional and psychological weight of these changes.

My own research, Navigating Academic Transition: Unveiling Mental Health Challenges in the Shift from High School to University (N. Khan, R.F. Syeda, K. Aijaz, S. Shahid, IDC 2024), has shown that many freshmen experience anxiety, social isolation, confusion about boundaries, and a lack of support structures. These challenges are rarely discussed openly, yet they have a profound impact on students' ability to thrive both academically and personally. The research makes it clear: formal and early awareness around well-being, harassment, and community values is not optional, it is essential.

At LUMS, we recognize that these struggles are not marginal, they are widespread and urgent. The Office of Accessibility and Inclusion (OAI) and Counselling & Psychological Services (CAPS) have long been consistently doing extraordinary work in supporting students through one-on-one counseling, awareness campaigns, and inclusive initiatives. However, we have collectively realized that these efforts must begin earlier, through a formal shape, and most importantly, be offered consistently so that every student, regardless of background or exposure, has a shared understanding of what is acceptable, what support is available, and how to navigate difficult situations with clarity and confidence.

In response to these findings introduce a first-of-its-kind incoming LUMS students.

and collective insights, we are happy to course developed specifically for Created in close partnership with

OAI and CAPS, this course reflects LUMSx's commitment to holistic student development and to the LUMS community at large.

The course takes a two-part approach. The first half, developed with OAI, focuses on enhancing students understanding of pro-social and anti-social behaviors, including bullying and sexual harassment. , along with This further covers relevant legal frameworks, consent, and the responsibilities of bystanders and first responders. The second half, in collaboration with CAPS, centers on holistic wellness, encompassing physical health, emotional regulation, social and intellectual well-being, and alignment with personal values. Through this comprehensive curriculum, students will be equipped with the knowledge and skills necessary to foster inclusive, safe environments and support their own well-being as they embark on their academic journey at LUMS.

Dr. Suleman Shahid, Faculty Director of LUMSx, shares:

"This course gives students a much-needed early window into the emotional, social, and behavioral challenges they may encounter as they transition into university life. It helps them prepare, reflect, and develop the right mindset before these issues become overwhelming. What makes it even more valuable is its online format. It allows students to engage with the content on their own terms, without the stress of fixed schedules or the pressure of a traditional classroom. It's a proactive, accessible, and thoughtful way to begin their journey at LUMS."



Dr. Farah Nadeem, Director of OAI:

The "Pro-social Skills and Wellness" course holds immense promise for fostering a more positive and supportive climate at LUMS. Addressing sensitive topics requires a delicate touch, and the LUMSx team demonstrated exceptional collaborative spirit and expertise throughout the development process. Their meticulous attention to detail in ensuring seamless content integration and presentation was truly impressive. We particularly appreciated their proactive approach, responsiveness to our feedback, and unwavering patience as we navigated the complexities of this important subject matter. Working with LUMSx has not only been a smooth and professional experience but a genuinely inspiring partnership that has brought our vision to life.

Dr. Tahira Haider, Head of Department CAPS:

We envisioned PSSW as a course that would do more than inform—it would transform how students understand wellness, relationships, and responsibility. LUMSx's thoughtful partnership and shared commitment to mental well-being and respectful campus culture allowed us to weave together legal, emotional, and social dimensions into a cohesive and impactful learning experience. I hope this course helps students thrive both personally and as members of a respectful, prosocial university community.

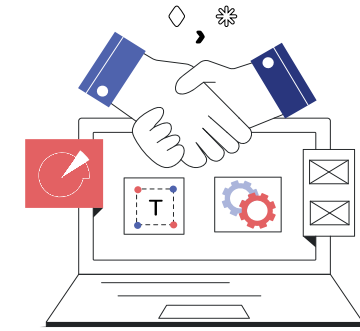
Shaharbano Raza, Gender and Inclusion Lead CAPS:

Working on creating the 'Pro-social Skills and Wellness' course with LUMSx was an outstanding experience from start to finish. Their team brought professionalism and creativity to every stage of the process—from initial planning to the recordings. We wanted to launch PSSW with the aim of creating a more aware and sensitised LUMS community, and beyond, that understands these essential topics affecting human relations all the time. The LUMSx team truly understood the importance of the subject matter and helped shape the content in a way that was both engaging and impactful. I was especially impressed by their attention to detail, responsiveness, and commitment to producing high-quality learning experiences. I thoroughly enjoyed working with them!

Momina Naveed, Student Counsellor CAPS:

PSSW was born from a simple but urgent hope: that no student at LUMS should have to reach breaking point before they are given tools in counselling to take care of themselves. This course is our way of equipping them with a personalised toolkit to thrive, not just survive, during university life. The LUMSx team helped us shape our raw vision into a structured, professional reality in the form of a well-designed course. It's been a deeply personal project and am immensely grateful to LUMSx for holding space for that depth, ensuring that not a single aspect of the vision is compromised, while bringing it to life using their expertise to ensure sound pedagogy, structure, and impact.

Partnerships & Collaborations

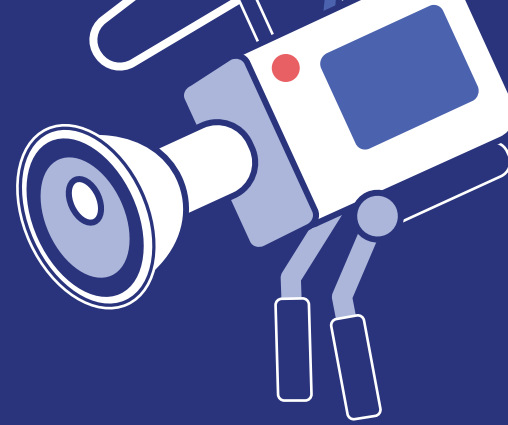


The Aga Khan University - Institute for Educational Development (AKU-IED) and LUMSx continue to advance their shared mission of empowering educators through accessible, high-quality professional development. In 2024-2025, their collaboration successfully launched multiple cohorts of STEM for Educators, a course designed for grade 4-8 science and math teachers aligned with the updated National Curriculum of Pakistan (2022-23). The six-week course combined asynchronous modules and live sessions to help educators design integrated STEM units, use inquiry-based strategies, and evaluate classroom materials. Its strong uptake nationwide highlights the growing demand for practical, innovation-driven teacher training. Building on this momentum, AKU-IED and LUMSx are now exploring new online programs in early childhood education and school leadership, reaffirming their commitment to supporting educators' evolving needs across Pakistan.

The Ali Institute of Education (AIE) remains a vital partner in LUMSx's mission to transform professional learning for educators across Pakistan. Building on last year's successful collaboration, we are excited to launch a new course in 2025: Fundamentals of Project-Based Learning (PBL). Designed for K-8 educators, this online course introduces a student-centered approach that emphasizes real-world problem-solving, creativity, and collaboration. Through guided content and hands-on learning design, teachers will gain practical skills to implement PBL in their classrooms and foster 21st-century competencies like critical thinking and self-directed learning. Grounded in local teaching contexts and aligned with global best practices, the course reflects our joint commitment to teacher excellence. Delivered through a blend of live sessions and self-paced modules, it offers an engaging, flexible learning experience with certification upon completion.



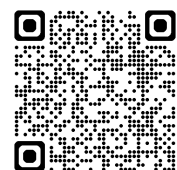
Elevate Your Productions at the LUMSx Studio!



Step into the future of content creation with the state of the art LUMSx Studio—now open for rentals at LUMS, DHA Lahore. Whether you're filming a course, a brand video, or a full-scale production, our studio has you covered. Enjoy access to cutting-edge cameras (Canon, Sony A7III, Blackmagic 6K), professional audio gear, chroma and background setups, teleprompters, dollies, and cinematic lighting including Aputure 120D and 300Ds along with any technical assistance that may be required. Need a break? Relax in our studio lounge with complimentary tea, coffee, and green tea. With 8-hour time slots and customizable equipment options, producing at LUMSx Studio is efficient, convenient, and fully supported. Reach out now—your next great production starts here.



Watch a snippet of what work is like at the LUMSx Studio!



Inside LUMSx

A Culture of Independent Growth and Collaborative Excellence

39

At LUMSx, team culture isn't just a backdrop to our operations, it's the very foundation upon which we build, evolve, and succeed. It's the lens through which we approach our work, the energy that fuels our innovation, and the glue that binds us as a collaborative unit. As a forward-thinking learning and development initiative, we're deeply rooted in the values of independent learning, continuous professional development, and the power of collective achievement. Everything we do is underpinned by a shared vision: to create meaningful, impactful educational experiences while fostering an environment where every individual can thrive.

Our workplace culture is shaped by trust, autonomy, and responsibility. Every team member—regardless of role or tenure—is empowered to take initiative, lead their own projects, experiment with new ideas, and push boundaries. This sense of ownership doesn't exist in isolation; it's supported by a robust internal support system designed to nurture growth and spark curiosity. From the outset, new team members are welcomed into a community of thoughtful professionals who believe in lifting each other up. Regular in-house masterclasses and knowledge-sharing sessions, led by team

members themselves—ensure that we're always learning from one another, staying sharp, and deepening our collective expertise. Whether it's data analysis, storytelling, pedagogy, or design, our shared knowledge keeps us agile and ahead of the curve.

At LUMSx, we know that celebrating our wins—no matter the size, is just as important as achieving them. A successful course launch, a colleague's personal milestone, an insightful workshop, or a moment of team brilliance, these are moments we intentionally pause to acknowledge and celebrate. Team-building activities and seasonal gatherings



September 2024, Trip to Nathiya Gali

offer space to connect beyond the screen, while our annual team retreat is a cherished tradition that allows us to step away from our day-to-day pace. These retreats are more than just a break—they're a space to reflect, reset, and reimagine what's next, surrounded by nature, creativity, and a shared sense of purpose.

Our approach to leadership is flat, fluid, and inclusive. At LUMSx, leadership isn't confined to titles or hierarchy, it's defined by initiative, contribution, and vision. Everyone is encouraged to lead in areas they're passionate about, to raise ideas, to challenge the status quo, and to help steer our collective direction. This culture of distributed leadership ensures that diverse perspectives shape our decisions and that every voice has weight. It also means we consciously avoid difficult or toxic dynamics. Instead, we prioritize psychological safety,

open communication, and a deeply embedded culture of mutual respect and shared goals. "What makes LUMSx different is that you're never just a team member, you're a leader in your own right, trusted to drive change and supported every step of the way."

In a world where the education sector is rapidly evolving, LUMSx stands out—not just because of what we do, but because of how we do it. With intentionality. With professionalism. With heart. And with the unwavering belief that when people are empowered, supported, and inspired, they build transformative learning experiences that ripple far beyond the classroom.

Here at LUMSx, we don't just create courses—we create possibilities. And we do it together.



April 2025, Eid ul Fitr Anonymous Gift Exchange



September 2024, LUMSx at Pearl Continental Bhurban



March 2024, Celebrating Women's day at LUMSx



August 2024, Independence day Celebration



Future Ed Summit 2024

(National Summit on Future of Education and Tech Enhanced Learning)



LUMSx hosted the first-of-its-kind National Summit on the Future of Education and Technology (FutureEd Summit) on September 21st and 22nd, 2024, at LUMS, Lahore. This premier event brought together over 450 participants and featured more than 40 thought leaders, including educators, policymakers, practitioners, researchers, and technology experts. The summit served as a national platform to explore the rapidly evolving educational landscape in Pakistan and examine how technology can enhance learning experiences across K-12 and higher education.

The FutureEd Summit was designed to foster meaningful dialogue on the opportunities and challenges facing the education sector. At the heart of these conversations was a shared recognition that education in Pakistan stands at a crossroads. The country's literacy rate, as of 2022, remains around 59%, with stark disparities between urban and rural populations, and between genders. An estimated 22.8 million children aged 5 to 16 remain out of school. For those within the system, learning outcomes are worryingly low, with less than half of Grade 5 students able to read a story in their native language and only 41% able to solve basic arithmetic problems.

In this context, the integration of technology in education is not simply a trend but a necessary shift. Digital tools have the power to democratize access to knowledge, allowing students across geographic and socioeconomic

boundaries to benefit from quality education. The first day of the FutureEd Summit offered four immersive workshops, each drawing over 30 participants, including teachers at the start of their careers as well as experienced educators. The workshops focused on the use of artificial intelligence in K-12 classrooms and higher education, strategies for designing engaging online learning



experiences, and understanding student motivation in tech-enhanced environments. These sessions were hands-on and collaborative, offering educators a chance to engage directly with emerging tools and practices.



The second day featured keynote speeches and panel discussions led by influential voices in education and technology. by Dr. Ali Cheema, Vice Chancellor, LUMS, on the future of education reform in Pakistan. Sessions by the Federal Ministry of Education, Arbisoft, Noon Academy, Amal Academy, Punjab Rural Support Programme, and members of the LUMS faculty sparked discussions around the role of EdTech in improving learning outcomes, and addressing systemic issues

The FutureEd Summit 2024 marked a critical step toward rethinking how education is delivered, accessed, and experienced in Pakistan. It created space for visionary thinking and practical exploration, highlighting how collective effort can drive meaningful change. LUMSx remains committed to sustaining this momentum and working with partners, educators, and institutions to shape an educational landscape that is equitable and innovative.



NEXUS 2025



On May 31st, 2025, LUMSx hosted Nexus 2025, a premier one-day gathering focused on the evolving landscape of work and learning in Pakistan. Held at LUMS, the event was specially curated for LUMSx alumni, bringing together over 150 participants, including LUMSx alumni, educators, professionals, industry leaders, and students, for a full day of connection, insight, and future-focused exploration. With a full house and 20 speakers from leading organizations such as Sapphire, PepsiCo, COLABS, Scarsdale, and LUMS, Nexus 2025

became a powerful celebration of learning, community, and professional growth.

At the heart of the event was the LUMSx alumni network which included former participants of online and hybrid courses who had engaged with LUMSx programs from across Pakistan. Nexus 2025 provided them with the opportunity to meet their instructors in person, share their journeys, and celebrate their accomplishments. The highlight for many was the vibrant meet-and-greet session, where alumni enthusiastically took photos with their instructors, received certificates, and reconnected with peers.

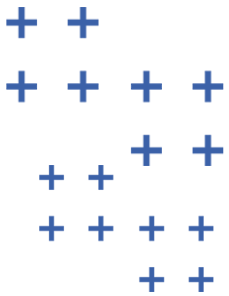
Nexus 2025 also tackled



urgent themes related to the future of work, job readiness for young graduates, and upskilling for professionals across diverse sectors. The day featured thought-provoking panel talks on navigating career transitions, developing lifelong learning habits, and adapting to the rapidly changing demands of the modern workforce. Discussions emphasized gender inclusivity, equitable access to opportunities, and the importance of continuously evolving skillsets in an increasingly digitized world.



Nexus 2025 exemplified the LUMSx commitment to building lifelong learning communities and bridging the gap between education and employment. By centering alumni voices and creating space for both celebration and serious dialogue, the event reaffirmed that the future of work in Pakistan must be inclusive, adaptive, and deeply human. As LUMSx continues to grow, it remains anchored in the belief that learning doesn't end with a course: it evolves with every connection, challenge, and next step.



LUMSx

Summer Internship Program



LUMSx hosted its Summer Internship Program from June to August 2024, offering a unique and hands-on opportunity for students in O Levels, Matric, or above to gain real-world experience in a professional setting. The program was carefully designed to provide exposure to a range of departments,



contributed to a wide variety of projects. These included reviewing instructional design content, writing scripts for educational videos, managing and curating social media campaigns, designing visual assets, and shooting and editing videos. Through these experiences, they not only built technical skills but also developed a deeper understanding of how different functions come together to support digital education at scale.

In addition to their project work, the interns participated in weekly team-building activities with the larger LUMSx team, designed to foster collaboration, creativity, and peer learning. These sessions provided a much-needed break from work, allowing the interns to bond, share their experiences, and enjoy the community spirit that LUMSx is known for.

including Media, Design, Illustration, Instructional Design, Marketing, and Business Development. It aimed to nurture aspiring professionals and students who were eager to explore the world of online learning, foster innovation, and contribute meaningfully to a fast-paced and collaborative environment.

Following an overwhelming response of over 700 applications from across the country, six exceptionally talented individuals were selected to join the program. These interns came from diverse academic and professional backgrounds, including film, design, marketing, education, and law. Each intern was assigned individual projects tailored to their interests and skill sets, but they also worked closely with one another, creating a vibrant learning community.

During the course of the internship, the interns

The impact of the internship was mutual. While LUMSx benefited from the fresh ideas and energy brought in by the interns, the interns themselves experienced significant personal and professional growth. One of the standout outcomes of the program was that one intern secured a full-time position as a Videographer at REDC, a center within LUMS, demonstrating the potential of the internship as a launchpad for future opportunities.



Our Student Partners

Intro to Data Science

Laiba Intizar Ahmad, SBASSE, RA

Machine Learning

Muhammad Muiz Farhan, SBASSE, RA

LCE- Incubation Program

Khadeja Anwar (SDSB)

Machine Learning:

Warda Jamil (MGSHSS)

Effective Teaching Strategies Specialization

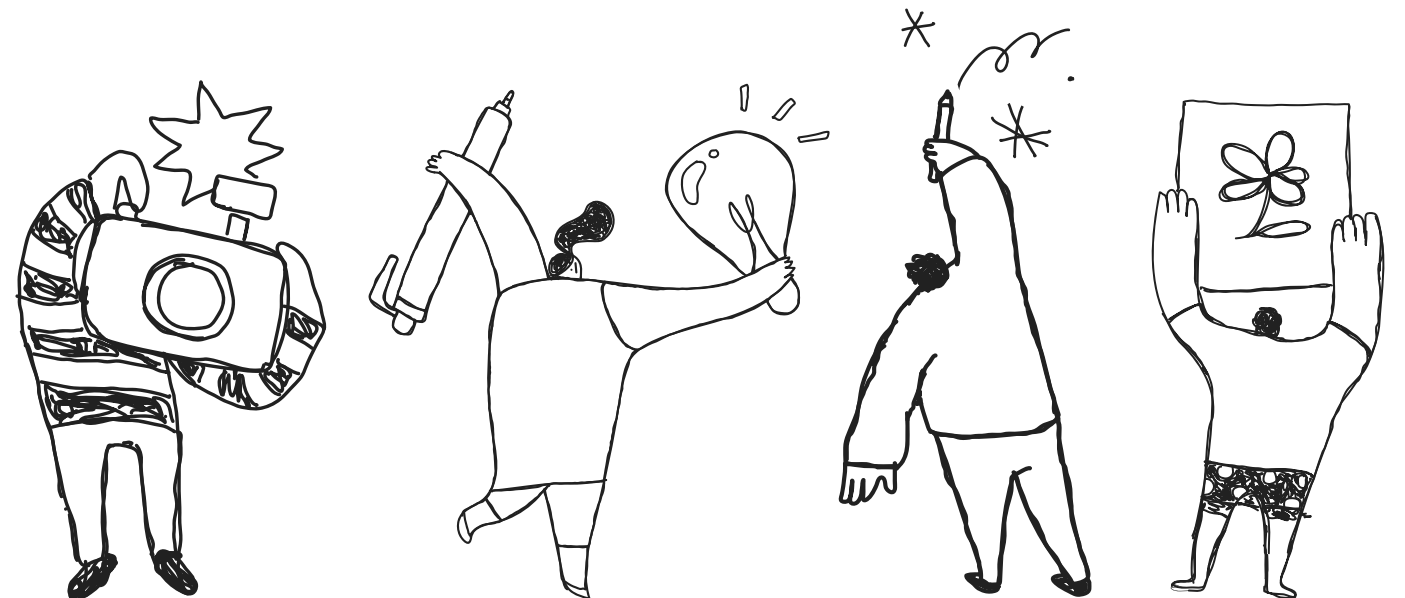
Hamza Mubashir (MGSHSS)

The Art of Persuasion

Eimaan Saqib (SBASSE)

Cohorts RA

M. Danish Nadeem (SDSB)



Beyond Upskilling: Rethinking Ed-Tech for Collective Learning

By Rehab Masood

The use of digital technology to expand individual upskilling opportunities is a frequent topic in today's educational discourse, promising personal development and pathways to career advancement and success. The rationale here is that with enough individuals trained in the right set of desired skills, you can prepare a productive and efficient workforce.

However, this overlooks a few key issues:

- First, emphasizing individual upskilling exacerbates existing inequalities. The benefits of technological advancements disproportionately accrue to those already well-resourced. During the COVID-19 pandemic, for example, sharp disparities emerged in access to digital learning tools across income, gender, and geography, particularly in the Global South (World Bank, 2021).
- Second, even when access is improved, the dominant framing of education as a means of personal advancement often fails to cultivate social responsibility or collective awareness. Gaining new personal skills does not necessarily motivate people to engage with larger shared problems, particularly when success is measured by individual achievement, not social contribution.
- Third, the push to close the so-called skills gap traps education in a reactive stance. By defining technology as the means of addressing gaps between current and in-demand skills, this model demands constant reorientation and resource provision just to keep pace with changing labour markets. Ed-tech initiatives are often shaped by employer needs, rather than shaping or challenging the assumptions that underpin them.
- Fourth, beyond this mismatch lies a deeper unsustainability: the loop whereby new technologies disrupt existing systems, create new skill demands, and prompt more tech-driven solutions to address the resulting gaps. In this phenomenon, tech-driven interventions often generate new problems they then claim to solve, diverting attention from social, political, or ecological roots of the crisis.



- Finally, learning is shared and reinforced through engagement with others. Prioritizing individualized learning pathways neither prepares individuals to collaborate effectively nor builds the social capacities needed to address collective challenges. As Albert Bandura's social learning theory (1977) emphasizes, learning is fundamentally shaped by observation, imitation, and interaction with others. Education, when reduced to personal gain, loses its civic and social function.

Given these considerations, one can make the case for reimagining technology education not as a tool for individual upskilling and personal development, but for collective forms of learning and problem-solving. In this vision, the function of technology shifts from increasing individual participation and access to serving the needs and interests of communities.

Take, for instance, the issue of climate change. How is the current workforce in Pakistan being prepared to address this challenge? While Pakistan's National Climate Change Policy (2021) emphasizes capacity-building, there is limited integration of environmental education within digital learning strategies. The Digital Pakistan Vision focuses largely on producing AI and IT talent to meet market demand but makes little room for cross-sectoral or problem-based learning focused on climate resilience.

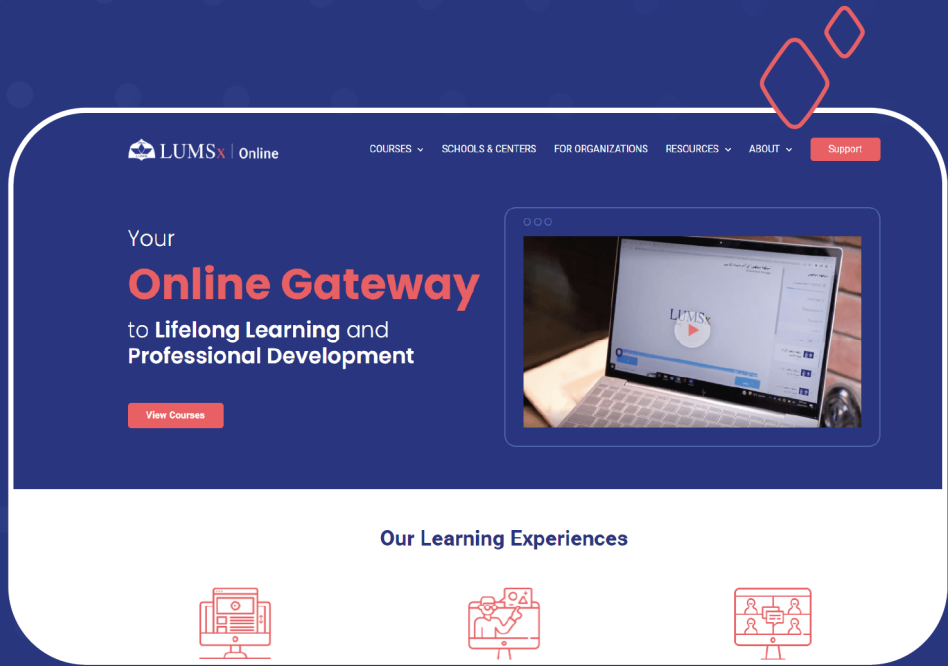
This is where methodologies such as project-based or problem-based learning (PBL) become relevant. PBL is collaborative, encourages creativity, and places learners in active roles, focusing their efforts on contextualized challenges that require consensus and cooperation. Preparation alone cannot be expected to yield wide-scale social impact. By contrast, investing in collective learning and shared problem-solving creates more equitable conditions for participation, fosters broader perspectives, and enables learners to generate multifaceted responses to complex issues. Individualized learning, shaped primarily by personal gain, often results in narrow and technocratic approaches.

This shift also requires us to grapple with technology not merely as a neutral tool but as a structuring force, one that shapes educational priorities, policy frameworks, and cultural norms. As Neil Selwyn (2016) argues, educational technology often reinforces a neoliberal logic that casts learners as individual entrepreneurs, responsible for their own advancement and detached from broader civic or social responsibilities. This framing is difficult to dislodge, especially given how deeply it is embedded in both market ideology and institutional practice. No individual learner or single educational platform can reverse this logic on their own.

Through models like PBL, educators and learners can begin to resist dominant narratives by cultivating a collective consciousness attuned to shared problems and the common good. While this alone may not realign policy, it can generate the awareness and critical orientation necessary to question the way technological solutions are framed and to demand more democratic, contextual, and sustainable alternatives.

Enter the
next frontier of
digital learning

<https://lumsx.lums.edu.pk>



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