

JULY 30, 2022

# STORIES FROM SKARDU

## WELCOME!

This summer, 300 LUMS and University of Baltistan, Skardu (UoBS) students have come together in Skardu for 'Learning Without Borders - The Baltistan Experience'. This unique programme features five experiential learning courses that are co-designed and co-taught by faculty from both universities.

Here are some of the incredible stories as our cohort learns with, and from, each other.

## How it Began

### LUMSxUoBS: A Perfect Match



The 'Learning Without Borders - The Baltistan Experience' partnership kicked-off last year when leadership from both universities met in Skardu. Together, they identified areas where they could collaborate for knowledge creation and research. In December 2021, faculty from both LUMS and UoBS joined hands to create and developed the courses being taught this summer, in a week-long workshop at the LUMS Learning Institute, co-facilitated by LUMS Vice Chancellor, Dr. Arshad Ahmad.

Talking about the partnership, Dr. Ahmad shared that he believed LUMS and UoBS are a perfect match for collaboration and knowledge sharing. "Like human beings, I think institutions also need partners to learn from, to take care of and be taken care of in terms of growth and development. It's almost a kind of love; a love for learning, curiosity, and bonding. This is a model that we must not just create for ourselves but also for others. Success would mean that we establish not just a national or regional standard, but a global standard," he said.

## In the Spotlight

### Together we can do so much



How can we address the biggest challenges of our time? Students from LUMSxUoBS are learning together this summer and are realizing that collaboration is key to making a difference. By partnering in class and group activities, they are able to exchange their ideas, expertise, and perspectives. Guided by faculty from both universities, initiatives and projects by the students are already creating a direct impact in the community. Stay tuned as we share the thought-provoking conversations and innovative solutions students are sharing about the pressing issues facing us today.

## Life in Skardu

### Open hearts, open homes

This 100-year-old home is tucked away on a little street minutes away from Aga Hadi Chowk in Skardu. Built with wood and clay, the structure has withstood the test of time. It remained inhabited until just a few years ago and the house's open plan reflects the culture's emphasis on community. If you look closely, you can spot the kitchen furnace where families would gather around and dine together.



## Learning Together

Our students are hard at work to design solutions for a better tomorrow. Here, students taking the course on Entrepreneurship have put down 100 different ideas to improve transportation in Skardu.



## Thoughts and Impressions

"This project is so much more than a regular programme or course. It will help build empathy. Our students aren't here as observers - but as co-creators, working together to develop sustainable solutions to the grand challenges of our time."

- Dr. Suleman Shahid, Director, LUMS Learning Institute, on the intent behind this programme.

## Photo of the Day



We certainly do love Skardu! The signature Balti hospitality and warmth has been on full display as LUMS students and faculty are starting to settle into their home for the summer.

Picture courtesy of Salman Khawaja (BS 2024)

*Bakshis* (Thank You) for reading this issue of *Stories from Skardu*, an initiative by the Communications Team at the Office of Advancement.

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