



PIDE'S FIRST OPEN HOUSE WEBINAR FOR ADMISSIONS 2025

Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE) organized its first Open House Webinar for Admissions 2025 on June 28, 2025, Saturday. The aim of the session was to familiarize the potential candidates with the programs offered at PIDE, the scheme of studies of each program, the course contents, semester-wise breakdown, semester fees and facilities being offered at PIDE. The session was attended by PIDE staff and potential candidates interested in joining programs at PIDE. It was a one-hour session, started with the recitation of verses from the Holy Quran, followed by Dr. Khurram Ellahi (moderator)'s introduction of PIDE's legacy packaged through PIDE showcase documentary. The session was followed up by Dr. Karim Khan (Faculty of Social Sciences, Dean, PIDE) who talked the listeners through key features about PIDE's academic programs.

Dr. Khan also highlighted to the potential candidates about why choosing academic programs at PIDE, is important for building their academic profile and strengthening their professional prowess. Dr. Khan explained that PIDE's most recurrent strength is its research by substantiating that PIDE

stands at number 1 in RePec Ranking. PIDE's research on growth agenda, civil service reforms, sludge audit series, and Pakistan's debt and fiscal policies has informed economic and social policies in Pakistan. Research conducted in PIDE is policy-oriented and closely tied to the URAAN vision. PIDE's recently institutionalized Work Study Program is an effective framework for allocating students to various ministries, regulatory authorities or relevant government department for them to directly work under the ministries' supervision, gain access to documents and data, and acquire first-hand knowledge about functioning of government and eventually possible placement after completion of degrees. A monthly stipend of PKR. 80,000/- is also offered under WSP. In addition, Dr. Karim also highlighted learning ecosystem at PIDE, where exposure to research, data-sets, and social networking with the policymakers and policymaking institutions is easy.

PIDE's outreach and advocacy in the form of AGM and PSDE conferences, regional conferences, seminars, and webinars make student access easier to policymakers and international donors such as the World Bank, the Asian Development Bank, and United Nations Development Program. Another highlight is the graduate employability. PIDE graduates are employed across various sectors of Pakistan economy, occupying some of the leading national and international positions in the governmental and non-governmental organizations, local and foreign universities, and as successful entrepreneurial and startup owners.

The session continued with the details of degree programs offered by the PIDE School of Economics (PSE), by Dr. Iftikhar Ahmad (Head, PIDE School of Economics). Dr. Ahmad introduced the scheme of studies, semester-wise breakdown, and eligibility criteria of the PhD and MPhil Economics, PhD and MPhil Econometrics, MPhil Business Economics and MPhil Economics and Finance programs to the potential candidates. He concluded by reverberating excellent pedagogy and placement of PSE graduates in leading positions, nationally and internationally. Dr. Ellahi called Dr. Hafsa Hina (Head, PIDE School of Policy, Development and Governance (PSPDG)) to detail about the programs offered in the School. Dr. Hina after explaining the MPhil Development Studies and MPhil Public Policy programs to the potential candidates, introduced two new programs the School will be offering admissions from Fall 2025; PhD Development Studies and PhD Public Policy and Governance. Dr. Hina explained the academic and professional strengths of both programs, the importance of introducing both programs, and how the course contents are aligned with the market demand of skills required in the inter-, intra-, and trans-disciplinary fields of inquiry such as Development Studies and Public Policy.

The discussion was followed up by Dr. Nadeem Javaid (SI) (Vice Chancellor, PIDE)'s address to the potential candidates, wherein he talked about the sound research profile and pedagogical quality of the academic programs offered at both PSE and PSPDG. Dr. Javaid (SI) also emphasized uniqueness of Work Study Program in which knowledge gaining, learning and earning contemporaneously takes place. Dr. Javaid (SI) also explained the educational and infrastructural facilities offered by PIDE, including, though not limited to, PIDE Library, labs and PIDE Day Care

Centre. The conferences and seminars provide much-needed exposure to students about competing frameworks and contemporary policy solutions on key issues such as governance, climate change, poverty and inequality, trade and commerce, industries and markets, economic policies, economic growth, cities and urban development, and public service delivery.

The session concluded with Question/Answer session, in which potential candidates interested in getting admissions in PSE and PSPDG asked questions and articulated their concerns. Some of the questions raised in the session were about WSP details, test composition and breakdown of themes and marks for the PhD and MPhil tests, availability of hostels for female students (in particular), fee structure, class schedules, possibility of evening classes, submission guidelines of research proposal for PhD programs, and possibility of evening classes. All the questions were eloquently and timely addressed by the moderator, Dean, Heads of both Schools and admission committee members. The Vice Chancellor concluded the session by thanking the potential participants and wished all the applicants best of luck. The moderator, Dr. Ellahi, announced that the next two Open House Webinars will be conducted in Mid-, and End-July 2025.

