



Habib University
shaping futures



The Habib Liberal Core

YOUR PREPAREDNESS FOR A DISORIENTED WORLD

Your foundation for knowing the world consciously, thinking about it deeply, repairing it with care and compassion, and leading with responsibility.



Why Study Liberal Arts?

There is a vital difference between knowing what to think and knowing how to think. The goal of a liberal arts education is to cultivate students' capacity for the latter, empowering them to become independent thinkers who have the confidence to act intentionally to shape both their own lives and the world around them. The purpose of a liberal arts education therefore is not solely to impart technical knowledge and skills, but to nurture the intellectual breadth, critical thinking, and ethical discernment needed to engage thoughtfully with an increasingly complex world.

In an era defined by artificial intelligence, technological revolution, rapid transformations in the world of work, climate

instability, and overlapping global crises, the central challenge is not simply acquiring knowledge but developing the capacity to think critically, reason across disciplines, make ethical judgments, and respond wisely to uncertainty.

A liberal arts education cultivates intellectual breadth alongside disciplinary depth, enabling students to integrate scientific inquiry, computational and quantitative reasoning, the social sciences, and the humanities into

a coherent understanding of an increasingly interconnected world. It strengthens the habits of mind needed for lifelong learning, creativity, evidence-based reasoning, and responsible citizenship while preparing graduates to navigate complexity with confidence and purpose.

These same capacities are increasingly valued in the future of work. The World Economic Forum's *Future of Jobs Report 2025* identifies analytical thinking,

resilience, adaptability, leadership, lifelong learning, and AI literacy among the most important capabilities for the workforce of the future. A liberal arts education therefore equips graduates not only for evolving careers but also to contribute thoughtfully to society and lead meaningful lives in a rapidly changing world.

The idea of a liberal arts education dates back to Classical Antiquity, when great thinkers such as Socrates, Plato, and Aristotle, viewed education as a cultivation of the whole person. In the same tradition, the term Liberal Arts stems from the Latin 'Artes Liberales', meaning *the disciplines appropriate for a free person*. Here, "free" refers to the capacity for independent thought, ethical judgment, and active participation in civic life.



The Habib Liberal Core Curriculum

The Heart of Habib Undergraduate Education

Every great liberal arts university has an intellectual core: a shared experience where students encounter the big questions, texts, methods, and forms of inquiry that prepares them for life beyond undergraduate education. At Habib University, that center is the Habib Liberal Core.

The Habib Liberal Core curriculum is taken by all Habib students, regardless of their majors. It is the common intellectual foundation through which students learn to think broadly, rigorously, and imaginatively besides specializing deeply in their chosen fields.

In a country where higher education often struggles with deep-rooted intellectual limitations, the Habib Liberal Core empowers students to question

inherited assumptions, engage critically across disciplines, and cultivate a sense of intellectual and civic responsibility. This rigorous, interdisciplinary curriculum equips graduates with the resilience and perspective to thoughtfully address both our regional and global challenges.

Rooted in postcolonial, universalist, and planetary perspectives, the Liberal Core enables students to understand reality from a historical and philosophical perspective, critically analyze human social systems, apply scientific method of inquiry, quantitative reasoning, computation, and design thinking. It invites students to examine inherited assumptions, engage multiple traditions of knowledge, and gain inspiration for reparation through expression, making, and

design of sustainable solutions.



The Liberal Core forms the intellectual foundation of Habib Students - a foundation for thoughtful reflections, judgment, creativity, and responsible action.

A Reparative Vision of Learning

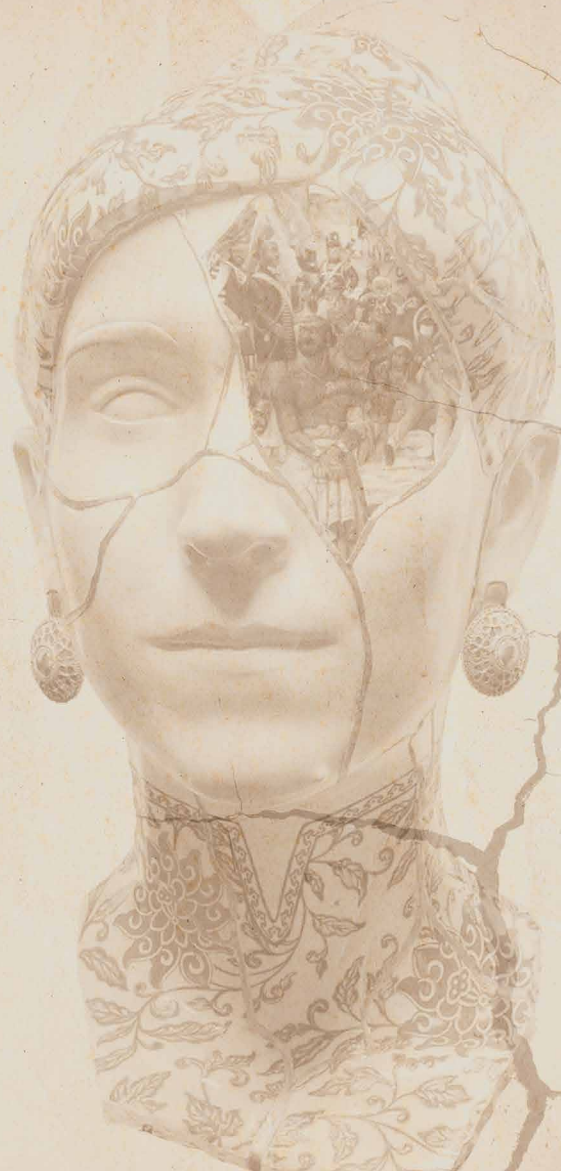
The future is not born in a vacuum. It is shaped by the histories we inherit, the institutions we build, the injustices we confront, and the possibilities we are willing to imagine.

Habib University's Liberal Core is grounded in a reparative vision of education. This means that learning is not understood merely as personal advancement. It is also a way of engaging with the historical, cultural, intellectual, and social wounds that continue to shape Pakistan, South Asia, and the wider world.

A reparative education asks students to think seriously about how societies come to be as they are: whose knowledge is valued, whose voices are silenced, how power operates, how communities

remember, and how futures may be reimagined. It cultivates intellectual humility, self-awareness, moral courage, and the ability to confront difficult questions without retreating into easy answers.

Through this vision, students begin to see education not only as preparation for life, but as participation in the work of repair, renewal, and collective flourishing.



Seeing the World Through a Postcolonial Lens

To understand where we are going, students must first understand how we arrived here.

The Habib Liberal Core invites students to learn through a postcolonial lens. This does not mean looking at the world narrowly. It means understanding global questions from where we stand: from Karachi, Pakistan,

South Asia, the Global South, and the planet we share.

Students encounter diverse intellectual traditions and learn to question inherited hierarchies of knowledge, wisdom, culture, languages, and traditions. They develop the ability to connect local realities with global forces, and to imagine futures that

are not merely borrowed from elsewhere but responsibly shaped from within their own contexts.

A postcolonial liberal education invites students to understand the world through historical awareness, critical inquiry, and a broader global perspective.

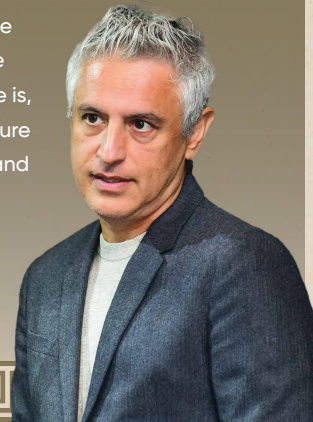


**Jahangir Visiting the Ascetic
Jadrup, c. 1616–1620, Govardhan.**
Public domain.
Courtesy Wikimedia Commons.

"A liberal arts education at a time of existential crisis like this is even more vital, even more important than we think that it is. The notion that we can teach young people how to think critically and rationally . . . at a time in which we are being bombarded with . . . propaganda and fake science . . . The idea that we can think historically, that we can teach our young people about history. There is, in a sense, nothing more important than . . . to teach . . . young people, the future of our world, how to think, how to have broader perspectives, how to understand culture, how to foster rational thinking, and how to cultivate . . . minds."

DR. REZA ASLAN

Renowned religious scholar,
bestselling author, and public intellectual



Your Liberal Core Journey

The Habib Liberal Core is organized around **Four Dimensions**. Together, they cultivate the habits of mind, knowledge, and capacities required to understand and shape an increasingly complex world.

Each dimension offers a distinct approach to understanding reality.

Collectively, the Four Dimensions invite students to connect ideas across disciplines, engage unfamiliar questions, and develop the intellectual confidence required for lifelong learning and thoughtful leadership.

UNDERSTANDING THE WORLD

How did our world come to be?

REASONING WITH NUMBERS, NATURE, AND CODE

How do we reason about reality?

CULTIVATING VOICE, CRAFT, AND CREATION

How do we create and communicate?

INTERPRETING SOCIETY, ECONOMY, AND THE STATE

How do human societies work?



The Four Dimensions of Habib Liberal Core

UNDERSTANDING THE WORLD

How did our world come to be?

This dimension invites students to explore the intellectual, historical, philosophical, and cultural foundations of the modern world. Through engagement with modernity, South Asian histories, and learning from the wisdom that we have inherited across traditions, students learn to ask how ideas, institutions, cultures, and historical forces shape the present.

Students develop historical imagination, philosophical reflection, ethical awareness, and the ability to understand contemporary realities as products of layered and contested pasts, equipping them to respond thoughtfully to the complex challenges and crises of the present.

Students become:

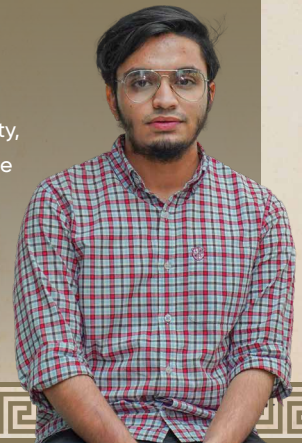
- Historically grounded
- Philosophically reflective
- Ethically aware
- Attentive to culture, memory, and power

Courses:

- What is Modernity?
- Pakistan and Modern South Asia
- Hikma

The Habib Liberal Core, particularly the courses on Modernity and Hikma, profoundly transformed how I understand knowledge, society, and personal responsibility. It taught me to question who produces knowledge, what assumptions influence it, and how it affects different groups within society. My Liberal Core education reminds me that technical ability must be accompanied by humility, compassion, and ethical responsibility. These lessons have become especially relevant in my work in artificial intelligence.

AREEB ADNAN KHAN
BS Computer Engineering
Class of 2025
Chancellor's Yohsin Medalist



REASONING WITH NUMBERS, NATURE, AND CODE

How do we reason about reality?

This dimension develops the capacity for rigorous, evidence-based reasoning. Through mathematics, scientific inquiry, laboratory learning, data, and computation, students learn how to observe, model, interpret, and analyze the natural and technological worlds.

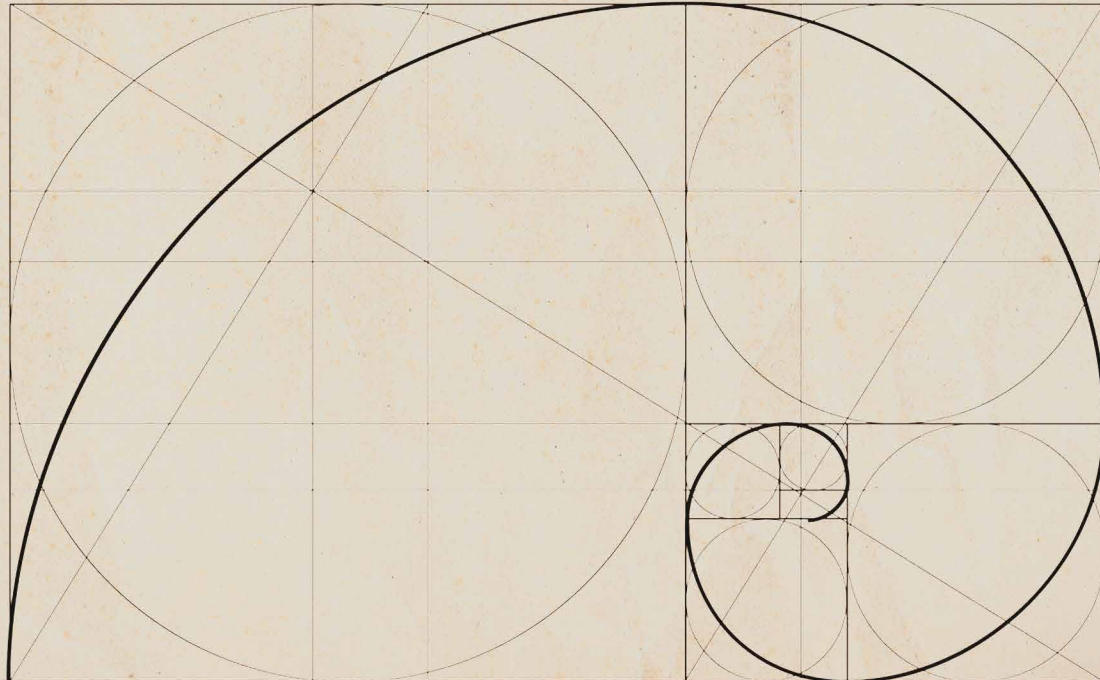
Students do not encounter science and computation as isolated technical skills. They learn them as powerful ways of asking questions, testing claims, understanding systems, and acting responsibly in a world increasingly shaped by data, algorithms, and scientific change.

Students become:

- Analytical and evidence-driven
- Scientifically curious
- Computationally confident
- Attentive to data, systems, and uncertainty

Courses:

- Computational Thinking
- Modeling Our World
- Natural Science Lab



INTERPRETING SOCIETY, ECONOMY, AND THE STATE

How do human societies work?

Understanding contemporary polycrisis requires a deep grounding in human society. This dimension introduces students to the structures, institutions, economies, political systems, and everyday practices that shape collective life.

Through sociological, economic, political, and anthropological lenses, students learn to interpret how societies organize, evolve, struggle, and imagine change. They also learn to connect their major fields of study to wider social realities and responsibilities.

Students become:

- Socially and politically aware
- Economically literate
- Attentive to institutions and power
- Able to connect knowledge with public life

Courses:

- Economies: Foundation of Economic Systems
- Societies: Ways of Life
- Politics: Forms of Governments

I completed my BSc in Computer Science at Habib University after 4 incredible years. Beyond the CS core, Habib's Liberal Core genuinely changed how I think; pushed me to question things, read outside my comfort zone, and realize education isn't just about your major. It shaped how I see the world just as much as my technical courses did.

MAIRA KHAN
BSc Computer Science
Class of 2026



CULTIVATING VOICE, CRAFT, AND CREATION

How do we create and communicate?

Ideas matter only when they can be expressed, shared, tested, designed, and brought into the world. This dimension develops students' capacity to communicate with clarity, create with purpose, and make meaning across multiple forms.

Through rhetoric, language, design, and making, students cultivate voice, craft, imagination, and the ability to shape ideas for different audiences and contexts. They learn that communication is not simply a skill; it is a form of thought, creation, and participation in the world.

Students become:

- Clear and persuasive communicators
- Creative makers and designers
- Attentive to language, form, and audience
- Able to express ideas with precision, beauty, and purpose

Courses:

- Rhetoric and Communication
- Jehan-e-Urdu (The World of Urdu)
- Maker's Experience
- Design for Impact



How Will You Engage with a Changing World?

Every educational journey begins with a question: What kind of thinker do you want to become? The Habib Liberal Core is designed to help you answer this question. Every course in the Habib Liberal Core challenges you to see the world differently, and yourself within it.

The Core prepares you to ask better questions before searching for answers. To understand before judging. To analyze before deciding. To imagine before creating. To connect ideas that others keep separate. To lead with humility rather than certainty.

Tomorrow's leaders will not be defined by what they know alone,

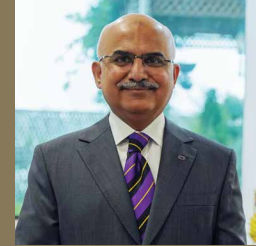
but by how they think, how they learn, and how they respond to complexity. Artificial intelligence may transform work, but it cannot replace human judgment, ethical reasoning, imagination, empathy, or the ability to bring diverse forms of knowledge together in the service of meaningful action.

The Habib Liberal Core cultivates these enduring capacities. It prepares graduates who are intellectually agile, socially aware, historically grounded, scientifically literate, computationally confident, creatively expressive, and ethically responsible.

These qualities matter in every sphere of life: in communities,

institutions, public life, entrepreneurship, graduate study, and the world of work. Employers value graduates who can analyze complex problems, communicate clearly, collaborate across differences, adapt to change, and exercise sound judgment.

Long after technologies evolve and careers change, the habits of mind cultivated through the Habib Liberal Core will remain a graduate's greatest advantage.



UMAR AHSAN KHAN

CEO, Dawlance

Habib is solving one key problem in Pakistan, the gap to think critically. Their liberal arts model has produced conscious critical thinkers and I can personally vouch for it. I wish more students access to this quality of education



Habib University

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