



NEWSLETTER

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Message from

Prof. Dr. Nassar Ikram

President/Vice Chancellor, Iqra University

With another new year on the horizon, IU CORE continues to reinforce a culture of innovation, entrepreneurship, and purpose at Iqra University. IU CORE has served as a significant platform for nurturing diverse ideas, encouraging our academic community to move beyond convention and develop solutions with real-world impact. I extend my sincere appreciation to the Team IU CORE, leadership, partners, and stakeholders whose commitment has strengthened this ecosystem of creativity and collaboration. As we move forward, IU CORE will remain central to our institutional mission revolving around shaping future entrepreneurs, advancing knowledge-driven enterprises, and contributing meaningfully to national development. Let us collectively sustain this momentum, uphold excellence, and continue transforming vision into impact.



Message from

Dr. Sameer Hashmat Qazi

Director-ORIC, Iqra University

The team of IU Center of Research and Entrepreneurship (IU-CORE) continued its journey with utmost zeal in 2025 for promotion of entrepreneurship and research commercialization culture at IQRA University. The IU CORE start up incubation cohort program and the freelancing program "SKILL UP" continue to mature and generate exceptional success stories. The role of Higher Management and Board of Advisors has been monumental in shaping these programs for their gradual expansion to meet the challenges of a rapidly evolving technology sector.

Congratulations to the leadership, Manager IU-CORE, and all stakeholders on completing an outstanding year!



Message from

Umair Ahmed Khan

Manager – IU CORE, Program Head – SKILL UP

It's heartening to see that IU CORE continues to position itself as a catalyst for student-led innovation and enterprise. By cultivating an environment rooted in experiential learning, mentorship, and industry relevance, the incubation centre has enabled numerous ideas evolve into impactful ventures. Guided by principles of responsibility and inclusivity, IU CORE ensures that innovation serves both markets needs and societal good. As the ecosystem expands in ambition and influence, the focus remains clear, which is about nurturing ideas that create meaningful value, empowering students to challenge conventions, seizing opportunities, and building solutions that endure.



IU CORE STARTUPS

Cohort 2 Graduated Startups



Current Cohort Startups



SUCCESS STORIES

HandsOn Communicator won the Campus Round of Innovista Startup League.



The Brave Next secured the Runner-Up award at the prestigious 12th Tameer Awards 2025.



NephroSense secured the SheXcellence Award – Overall Best Startup (Ideation Stage) at the SheXcelerate Awards 2025.



Park-Ease made us proud by achieving 1st position out of 40 startups at the Sustainovation Competition & Expo 2025 held at Sindh Madarsa-tul-Islam University.



The Brave Next Ltd Goes Global at Kazan Digital Week 2025.



Hands on Communicator won the IdeaVerse Competition at Iqra University.



IU CORE COLLABORATIONS & MOU



VISIT AND EXPOS



**SEE PAKISTAN 2025 at
LAHORE EXPO**



**WOMEN ENTREPRENEURSHIP
EXHIBITION**



**PAKISTAN TRAVEL MART
2025 AT KARACHI EXPO**



KARACHI SLUSH'D 2025



**SHE LEADS WOMEN FOUNDERS
BOOTCAMP at IOBM**



**EDUTECH REFORMS
SUMMIT 2025**



GITEX EUROPE 2025

HAPPENING AT IU CORE



**2ND COHORT ORIENTATION
CEREMONY**



**STARTUP TRAINING
BOOTCAMP**



THE BIG IDEA BOOTCAMP



**FINANCIAL LITERACY
SEMINAR**



**ENTREPRENEUR'S EDGE
WORKSHOP**



**2ND COHORT GRADUATION
CEREMONY**



**3RD COHORT ORIENTATION
CEREMONY**



**INNOVISTA START-UP
LEAGUE**

IU CORE'S IMPACTFUL JOURNEY



Total number of
Startups
Incubated
(Cohort 2 & 3)

80



Total number
of 2nd cohort
Graduated
startups

18

(Cohort 3 is ongoing)



Total Number of
Startups Incubated
in Any
Acceleration/
Incubation
Program

4



Total Number of
Startups Selected
Internationally /
Nationally for
Exhibition

25



Female-Led
Startups

21



Total Start-ups
Recognized
Through
Competition
Success

8

SKILL UP

FREELANCE EXCELLENCE PROGRAM

About the Program

Skill-Up Program is designed by IU-CORE to provide an opportunity to develop freelancing skills through hands-on training. This program offers comprehensive, practical courses in high-demand fields, equipping students with the essential knowledge and expertise to succeed in today's competitive job market or pursue entrepreneurial ventures.

Courses Offered



Digital Marketing



Prompt Engineering & Generative Ai



SEO and Content Creation



UI/UX Design



Video Editing, Animation, and Vlogging



Mobile App Development



Website Development

Mentors:



Syed Hassan Ahmed

Website Developer & Freelancer

Website development



Saad Ahmed Khan

Digital Marketing Consultant, & Freelancer

Digital Marketing



Tariq Majeed

Digital Enablement Specialist, NIC & Freelancer

UI/UX Design



Sobiya Munawar

AI Concept Architect & Campaign Designer

Prompt Engineering & generative AI



Muhammad Ahmer Imam

SEO Specialist & Freelancer

SEO and Content Creation



Shahab Uddin

Founder & CFO, SAAQITECH Software House

Web Development



Raja Muhammad Fareed

Lead Mobile Application Developer, Intellexal Solutions

Mobile App Development



M. Asif Siddique

Senior Art director & Entrepreneur Prompt Video

Editing, Animation & Vlogging

HAPPENING AT SKILL UP



**SKILL UP BATCH I
ORIENTATION CEREMONY**



**SKILL UP BATCH I
GRADUATION CEREMONY**



**SKILL UP BATCH II
ORIENTATION CEREMONY**



**SKILL UP BATCH II
GRADUATION CEREMONY**



SKILL UP BATCH III ORIENTATION CEREMONY

IU CORE STARTUPS FEEDBACK



THE BRAVE NEXT

“Being incubated at IU CORE has been a truly transformative journey for The Brave Next Ltd. Through IU CORE, we gained access to strong local and international networking opportunities, industry events, and invaluable mentorship from experienced founders and experts. The ecosystem helped us represent our startup confidently on multiple platforms and opened doors to opportunities we would not have accessed otherwise. Most importantly, IU CORE provided a growth-focused environment that encouraged innovation, collaboration, and strategic thinking. We are grateful for the continuous support that has accelerated our startup’s progress.”



CEE PRINTO

“Being part of the IU CORE incubation ecosystem has been instrumental in CeePrinto’s journey from idea to Pakistan’s first fully localized print-on-demand dropshipping platform. Through structured mentorship, industry exposure, and strategic guidance, we refined our business model, strengthened our technical roadmap, and addressed local challenges such as logistics, returns, and fulfillment.

Today, CeePrinto empowers entrepreneurs, designers, and e-commerce brands to launch white-label businesses without inventory risk. We are grateful to IU CORE for the continuous support that has accelerated our growth and prepared us to compete globally.”



RAPIDPAY

“From the very beginning, IU CORE has supported Rapid Pay with mentorship, guidance, and assistance in assembling the right team. Their insights and encouragement allowed us to navigate challenges, grow confidently, and reach key milestones. Today, Rapid Pay is making its mark internationally, participating in global exhibitions and earning recognition across markets.”

SKILLUP SUCCESS STORIES



Hammad Sheikh

“Although I was already a startup founder, I lacked practical skills. The SkillUp program provided hands-on training in Digital Marketing, helping me improve my sales and client management strategies. As a result, I increased my business revenue to approximately PKR 600,000 and built a more consistent and sustainable income stream.”



Taseen Shafquat

“After graduating from SkillUp Batch 2, I secured several long-term clients that now sustain my work. The program strengthened my networking and practical skills, enabling me to confidently plan my own apparel and tech ventures. Through client projects, I have generated approximately PKR 50,000 in revenue.”



Nimra Waheed

“I am Nimra, a SkillUp Batch 2 graduate. The Video Editing course refined my design skills through practical, easy-to-follow training. After completing the program, I began freelancing and have earned approximately Rs. 75,000, allowing me to independently manage many of my expenses. I’m grateful to SkillUp for the guidance and opportunities that supported my professional growth.”



Maharib Riaz Ahmed

“As a SkillUp alumnus from Iqra University specializing in Digital Marketing, the skills I gained were truly career-changing. Alhamdulillah, I am now earning over PKR 100,000 per month. I am grateful to Iqra University and IU CORE for this incredible opportunity.”

INDUSTRY FEEDBACK

KHURRAM SCHEHZAD

Advisor to Finance Minister, Government of Pakistan

“I am deeply impressed by IU CORE and its efforts to turn Pakistan’s abundant young talent into skilled, capable professionals. What sets IU CORE apart is its commitment to preparing first-time founders for the realities of entrepreneurship. Through structured mentorship, access to networks, and guidance in refining ideas into investable and sustainable ventures, the program significantly enhances the likelihood of long-term startup success. I must commend the vision and leadership of the respected Vice Chancellor of Iqra University, along with the IU CORE management and faculty, for creating such a transformative platform.”



ALEENA NADEEM

Founder & CEO EduFi

“I believe IU CORE truly bridges academic learning with real-world enterprise. The centre equips students with mentorship, structured programs, and industry exposure, helping them transform ideas into ventures that have genuine market relevance. It’s exciting to witness students gaining both confidence and business acumen.”



FAISAL AFTAB

Founder & CEO at Zayn VC

“The Start-ups at IU CORE demonstrate extraordinary creativity, resilience, and drive, and the ecosystem they are part of is designed to amplify these qualities. I can see that this program is not just producing entrepreneurs but it is shaping responsible, forward-thinking leaders committed to making a positive impact on the community.”



TEAM IU CORE



Mr. Umair Ahmed Khan

Manager – IU CORE,
Program Head – SKILL UP



Mr. Ali Hassan

Incubation Officer – IU CORE,
Program Coordinator – SKILL UP

A year of **IDEAS, INNOVATION AND IMPACT**



For further information on the range of programmes we offer, please visit our website (iqra.edu.pk/iu-core) or contact us at:

IQRA UNIVERSITY, Main Campus, Defence View, Shaheed-e-Millat Road (Ext), Karachi



IUMainCampus



IqraUniOfficial



Iqra_University



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IqraUniversitypakistan