

Civic Fellowship Program

Hyphen Resource Centre (HRC) is a Pakistan-based organization that aims to drive social development through education, fostering a culture of innovation, collaboration, and experiential learning. Through research-based programming and evidence-based policy advocacy, we aim to address pressing social issues, promote sustainable practices, and support the creation of a more equitable society. Through programs like the Civic Fellowship, HRC aims to bridge the gap between academic learning and real-world application, encouraging students to take action and create sustainable impact within their communities.

The Playground at Habib University is a transdisciplinary ecosystem designed as a collaborative space to enable learning, research, experimentation, ideation and prototyping across all disciplines. The Playground employs holistic approaches including human and planet-centered design, to rethink, unpack and reframe complex problems.

The **Civic Fellowship Program** is an eight-month initiative that aims to foster a sense of social responsibility and active civic engagement among Pakistan's youth by empowering undergraduate and graduate students across Pakistan to engage in meaningful social change. Focusing on the critical themes of **Education, Health, and Climate Change**, this fellowship equips young changemakers with the knowledge, skills, and networks they need to develop and implement sustainable solutions to pressing social issues.

1. Fellowship Structure

The Civic Fellowship Program is structured in three phases:

- **Phase 1 – Awareness**

Fellows will participate in hybrid workshops led by experts in their chosen focus area. These sessions will cover key issues and challenges related to Education, Health, or Climate Change, helping fellows build a strong foundation of knowledge. In addition to thematic sessions, fellows will attend capacity-building workshops focused on both technical skills (such as research, data analysis, and project management) and non-technical skills (such as leadership, communication, and critical thinking).
- **Phase 2 – Stakeholder Engagement**

Fellows will connect with relevant stakeholders, including government officials, development organizations, academics, and community members, to further understand the nuances of their focus area. During this phase, fellows will draft action plans for their projects and present them at a development conference organized by HRC, where they will receive real-time feedback from subject experts and practitioners.
- **Phase 3 – Implementation**

Fellows will put their project plans into action, either through exploratory work or by pilot testing their interventions. This hands-on experience will allow fellows to engage with key stakeholders and implement solutions that address social issues. The fellowship will culminate in an evaluation of the projects, where fellows will reflect on their journey and present a final report documenting their work and its impact.

2. What Fellows Will Gain

By the end of the program, fellows will:

- Gain a deeper understanding of social issues through expert-led workshops.
- Develop both technical and non-technical skills crucial for social impact projects.
- Network with like-minded peers, professionals, and organizations working toward social change.
- Design and implement pilot interventions addressing key issues in Education, Health, and/or Climate Change.
- Receive a Certificate of Completion upon successful participation in the fellowship.

3. Application and Eligibility

The application process for the Civic Fellowship is simple and involves the following steps:

- **Submit the Application Form:**
Interested students must fill out the online application form available here.
- **Eligibility Check:**
The HRC team will review applications to ensure eligibility criteria are met.
- **Interview Process:**
Shortlisted candidates will be invited for an interview with the selection committee.
- **Final Selection:**
Selected fellows will be notified via email about their selection.
- **Onboarding:**
Selected fellows will participate in a short onboarding program before the start of the fellowship period.

To be eligible for the Civic Fellowship Program, applicants must meet the following criteria:

- Must be **currently enrolled** in an undergraduate or graduate program at an HEC-recognized university in Pakistan. Students from **all academic disciplines** are eligible.
- Must remain **enrolled throughout the fellowship period** (January through August 2025).
- Demonstrate an interest in **social issues** and a **desire to contribute to solutions** that impact Pakistan's development.

4. Timeline

Below are some key dates and deadlines:

- **Applications open:** October 5, 2024
- **Application deadline:** October 31, 2024
 - Applications may be accepted on a rolling basis until November 15, 2024
- **Interviews:** November 2024
- **Final decisions:** December 15, 2024
- **Fellowship period:** January 1, 2025 – August 30, 2025

5. What Fellows Are Expected to Do

The selected fellows will be responsible for:

- Actively participating in workshops, conferences, and other sessions.
- Engaging with stakeholders from government, academia, development organizations, and communities.
- Designing and implementing a pilot project or intervention.
- Establishing a Civic Club at their institution to create a community of like-minded individuals working toward social change.
- Documenting their work and reflecting on its impact in a final report.

6. Support from Hyphen Resource Centre

Throughout the fellowship, Hyphen Resource Centre will provide the following:

- Access to **subject experts** for guidance and mentorship.
- Workshops and sessions focusing on **skill development**.
- Networking opportunities with **development professionals** and **other fellows**.
- Ongoing mentorship to ensure the sustainability of the projects.
- Financial and logistical support for selected pilot projects.

7. Contact Information

For any further questions or inquiries regarding the Civic Fellowship Program, please visit our website at <https://hyphenrc.com> or contact us at hyphen.rc@gmail.com