

Saad Khalil

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Rawalpindi, Pakistan

[LinkedIn Profile Link](#)

Professional Overview

Commonwealth Shared Scholar with MSc in Diplomacy & International Security from the University of Strathclyde, UK. Foundation in qualitative research and policy with 1 year of practical experience through internships in think tank settings. Proven ability to deliver quality research, policy notes, and academic presentations both nationally and internationally.

Work Experience:

Commonwealth Shared Scholar

12 September 2024 - 01 September 2025

University of Strathclyde, Glasgow, UK

- Completed a Master's degree on full scholarship; authored a dissertation, developing advanced research, analytical, critical, policy analysis and project management skills
- Served as an ambassador for Pakistan, fostering cross-cultural understanding and building international networks at the University of Strathclyde and across the UK
- Engaged with senior policymakers and stakeholders by participating in regional workshops on sustainable development, international conferences, and policy dialogues with British diplomats and Members of Parliament
- Represented Pakistan at the annual Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) reception at the British Parliament, strengthening diplomatic and professional connections

Research Assistant (Internship)

01 July 2024 - 09 August 2024

Army Institute of Military History (AIMH), Rawalpindi, Pakistan

Website: <https://aimh.gov.pk/>

- Supported the Director of Special Studies in academic activities
- Served as class representative for a cohort of 34 interns and led an educational visit to a historic military site from the British era
- Conducted research on Pakistan's UN peacekeeping contributions; presented findings to directing staff and peers
- Authored and presented a book review on leadership in institutional contexts
- Facilitated guest speaker coordination for academic sessions

Research Intern

21 December 2023 - 28 June 2024

Social Protection Resource Centre (SPRC), Islamabad, Pakistan

Website: <https://www.sprc.org.pk/>

- Conducted research and authored policy notes on social protection systems in Pakistan
- Worked in the organisation of an international conference and seminars
- Supported the Director of Research in data collection on the impact of climate change on human health
- Assisted the SPRC team in project meetings with the government of Pakistan
- Collaborated with senior government officials on disability and welfare policy advocacy

Research Fellow (Internship)

01 July 2023 - 06 November 2023

Global Strategic Institute for Sustainable Development (GSISD), Islamabad, Pakistan

Website: <https://gsisd.org/>

- Completed UN SDGs Fellowship programme, focusing on the 2030 Agenda
- Attended workshops on Research Methodology, Critical Thinking, and Sustainability
- Led webinars with national and international scholars on research design and sustainability policy
- Participated in debates on global issues and organised seminars on sustainable development

Education:

MSc Diplomacy and International Security

16 September 2024 - 01 September 2025

University of Strathclyde, Glasgow, UK

Website: <https://www.strath.ac.uk/>

- Dissertation: "Between Sovereignty and Sustainability: UN Peacekeeping and Political Constraints in the DRC, 2013-2024" (distinction) (publication in process)

BS Pakistan Studies

12 September 2019 - 29 August 2023

National University of Modern Languages (NUML), Islamabad, Pakistan

Website: <https://numl.edu.pk/>

- CGPA: 3.94/4.00; First Class Honours (distinction)
- Thesis: "Pakistan's Maritime Potential for the Blue Economy and Its Strategic Impact on Sustainable Socio-Economic Development" (published)

Research Projects:

- Do International Organisations Matter? (analytical essay affiliated with MSc)
- Critically Evaluate the Effectiveness of British Diplomacy around the Kashmir Conflict at the Onset of the Cold War (analytical essay affiliated with MSc)
- Pakistan's Armed Forces Contributions to UN Peacekeeping Missions and its Global Impact (article affiliated with AIMH)
- Pakistan's current welfare system and its challenges (affiliated with SPRC)

Publications / Blogs / Policy notes:

- Khalil, S. (2024). "Pakistan's Maritime Potential for the Blue Economy and Its Strategic Impact on Sustainable Socioeconomic Development." *Journal of Maritime Research*. <https://www.jmr.unican.es/index.php/jmr/article/view/961>
- Khalil, S. (2024). "Revolutionising Food Security in Pakistan." *Social Protection Resource Centre*. [Revolutionising Food Security in Pakistan - Social Protection Resource Centre](#)
- Khalil, S. (2024). "Social Protection Challenges and Opportunities in Pakistan: Learning Prospects from Scandinavian Countries." *Social Protection Resource Centre*. [Lessons on social protection from Scandinavian countries - Social Protection Resource Centre](#)
- Khalil, S. (2024). "Innovative Agricultural Technologies Revolutionising Food Security in Pakistan: Challenges and Opportunities." *Social Protection Resource Centre*. [Revolutionising Food Security in Pakistan - Social Protection Resource Centre](#)
- Khalil, S. (2024). "Policy Note: Care Cost of People with Disabilities." *Social Protection Resource Centre*
- Khalil, S. (2024). "Impact of Climate Change on Human Health: Global Context." *Social Protection Resource Centre*

International Conferences & Speaking Engagements:

- Invited Scholar - Commonwealth Commission Celebratory Farewell Event. London (2 Jul 2025)

- Invited Scholar - Maximising Your Development Impact Workshop. Commonwealth Commission, Windsor, England, (11-13 April 2025)
- Invited Scholar - Strengthening Global Peace, Security and Governance Panel Discussion. Commonwealth Commission, London, (13 February 2025)
- Attendee - The Economics and Politics of Reconciling Economic Development and Decarbonisation Policy Objectives - The Case of Germany. University of Strathclyde, (October 2024)
- Invited - Developing Indigenous South Asian Epistemes for International Relations and Strategic Studies. Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (FES Pakistan), (May 2024)
- Invited - Security Imperative-Pakistan's Nuclear Deterrence and Diplomacy. Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Islamabad, (November 2023)
- Invited - Navigating Peace & Security in the Region and Beyond: Pakistan's Role. United States Institute of Peace (USIP), Islamabad, (October 2023)
- Participant - Green Industrialisation in Pakistan: Integrated Policy Strategies for a Sustainable Future. United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), SPRC, Islamabad, (October 2023)

Awards & Scholarships:

- Commonwealth Leaders in Sustainable Development Residential Programme - Windsor, England
- Commonwealth Shared Scholarship (FCDO, UK) - Fully funded MSc award, worth GBP 45,000
- Certificate of Merit - AIMH - Best performer and class representative
- NUML Gold Medal - Top academic performer
- NUML University Position Holders Scholarship
- Pakistan Higher Education Commission (HEC) Laptop Scheme Awardee - Highest academic standing in undergraduate
- English Works! Program - U.S. Embassy, Islamabad

Technical & Research Skills:

- Academic Writing, Qualitative Research & Policy Analysis, Report Writing, Digital Research Tools

Volunteering:

- Supported project on disability data digitisation of 3,500 individuals (Pakistan Ministry of Human Rights)
- Organised a two-day UN conference with a team of 13, consisting of 140 attendees (Oct 2024)

Languages:

- Urdu (Native), English (Professional)

Certifications:

- Managing Climate Risks via Social Protection - FAO (June 2024)

Extracurricular Activities:

- Participant - NUST Eco Perspectives on Climate Change and Wellbeing (June 2024)
- Debate Participant - Centre for International Strategic Studies (CISS), Islamabad, "Pakistan Development & Security: Challenges, Opportunities, and Way Forward" (May 2024)
- Debate Participant - Hanns Seidel Foundation (HSF Pakistan) Model Council of Common Interests (2021-2023): political debate competitions at the campus and provincial levels