

ZEESHAN NAEEM

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EDUCATION

MPhil in Political Science

Forman Christian College (A Chartered University), Lahore | 2021–2025

- GPA: 3.95/4.00 — Summa Cum Laude (Highest Honors); Certificate of Distinction
- Core Coursework: Research Techniques in Political Science; Theories of International Relations; Political Thought; Comparative Politics (incl. rational choice theory, positivist methodology); Political Sociology (incl. ethnography); Constitutional and Political Processes in Pakistan; Local Government System in Pakistan
- Thesis: *Discourse, Articulation and Practice of US Military in Afghan War (2001–2021)* — I explored how did the US military discourse articulate at the level of practice in the US war on Afghanistan? What broader, expansive and informal discursive formations were deployed to continue the US war on Afghanistan? And what kind of habits (Habitus - Structural Dispositions) were instilled in the rank and file and how did it articulate at the level of practice in war?
- Supervision: Prof. Dr. Julie Flowerday & Dr. Shakila Noor Sindhu

BS in Strategic Studies

National Defence University, Islamabad | 2016–2020

- GPA: 3.84/4.00
 - Key Core Coursework: Theories of IR; Evolution of Strategic Thought; Peace and Conflict Studies (incl. Galtung's typology of violence); Introduction to Psychology; Information and Psychological Warfare; Security and Threat Perception; Civil-Military Relations; Introduction to War Theory and Conduct; Research Methodology
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ACADEMIC & PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Lecturer — Department of Strategic Studies

National Defence University, Islamabad | September 2026 – Present

- Appointed as Lecturer on recommendation of the 24th NDU Selection Board

- Teaching courses at undergraduate level in strategic studies, and political science, and also assisting with departmental responsibilities, including thesis feedback and academic data updates

Visiting Lecturer — Department of Political Science

Forman Christian College (A Chartered University), Lahore | February–May 2026

- Developed and delivered lectures at undergraduate level courses: Introduction to Political Science, International Relations, and Foreign Policy of Pakistan
- Transformed complex theoretical insights into structured instructional materials for my students with different backgrounds and levels of academic preparation

Research Associate

Grant Assistant AI – Proposal Technologies | November 2025–January 2026

- Worked as a middleman to apply a given schema to unstructured information related to grants, while using AI to convert source text into structured JSON records
- Carefully and consistently interpreted texts related to grants to correctly deploy in schema categories and fields, with my outputs reviewed by a separate quality-control team before publication on AI-Platform named as Grant Assistant AI.

Research Analyst

The Insights Desk Inc. | July–September 2025

- Conducted criteria-based research across international philanthropy, healthcare, finance, technology, and security sectors to recruit experts for different clients
- Built structured expert-networks using systematic categorization and verification procedures through Sales Navigator and LinkedIn.

Research Intern

Institute of Policy Studies (IPS), Islamabad | 2021

- Participated actively in discussions and seminars, involving senior officials and academicians, concerning legal, political, and strategic material for policy research
- Contributed research to the Kashmir Working Group that involved an analysis of official state discourse and competing strategic narratives related Nationalism and Kashmir Issue

SELECTED PUBLIC WRITINGS

- "Ukraine is the new chessboard pawn." *Dawn*, March 14, 2025. ([Link](#))

- "What's in it for the lesser mortals?" *Dawn*, April 14, 2022. ([Link](#))
 - "Bargain between the few." *The Newspaper*, January 22, 2022. ([Link](#))
 - "Fall of reason." *Dawn*, January 10, 2022. ([Link](#))
 - "The 'X' and 'Y' of the game of politics." *Dawn*, December 1, 2021. ([Link](#))
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ACADEMIC PRESENTATIONS & TRAINING

- Presenter and Participant in International Conference — *Fall of Kabul: An Eastern IR Perspective* — at Forman Christian College (A Chartered University), Lahore
- Participated in a Workshop on Research Proposal Writing — Organized by the American Institute of Pakistan Studies (AIPS) — at Forman Christian College (A Chartered University), Lahore