



Activate, at CERP



Summer 2024
Jul 1, 2024 - Aug 2, 2024
Lahore, Pakistan

CERP | Evidence
Matters

www.cerp.org.pk

Based in Lahore, Pakistan, CERP is a leading independent social impact organisation focused on improving decision-making through rigorous research, advanced analytics, capacity building, data collection and advisory services.

There is a tremendous amount of data collected but often, little emphasis is put on properly analysing it to inform crucial decisions. **CERP brings a world-class skill set to clean, collate and make sense of the data to draw deeper insights and actionable intelligence – deploying data and evidence to drive better decisions, and eventually high-impact reforms across multiple sectors.** In more than a decade since its inception, CERP's past work has been supported by prominent funding organisations such as the World Bank, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation (BMFG), Asian Development Bank, UK Aid, and UNDP, among others.



Deepening the culture of evidence across public and private sectors, inspiring innovation, and driving impact to improve lives.

	<p>300+ Team Members</p>	
<p>40+ Active Projects</p>		<p>100+ Global & Local Partners</p>
	<p>100+ Academic Research Fellows Globally</p>	

Verticals



Analytics

Empowers organisations to effectively use data to make better decisions



Survey

Collects data using cutting-edge practices to ensure quality accuracy and reliability



Research

Generates rigorous evidence to help policymakers address real-world challenges



Policy Advisory

Translates evidence and insights into actions



Labs

Spearheads technological innovation for social impact



Learning Hub

Develops quality education modules to improve communities

Activate, at CERP

Activate, at CERP is a first-of-its-kind, highly selective **summer programme** in **Lahore, Pakistan**, that aims to equip the youth interested in the development sector with **experiential learning and on-ground field experience in Pakistan, tailored technical and professional development skills, and networking / engagement opportunities.**



CERP Pre-College Summer Programme

Overseas Pakistani-origin / diaspora **High School** students residing outside Pakistan

**(5-week programme) -
Launching Summer 2024**



CERP Youth Professional Development Programme

Local applicants, **Students & Young Professionals**, residing in Pakistan

- Undergraduate (rising juniors & seniors) and graduate students pursuing their degrees in Economics, Political Science, Public Policy, or a related discipline
- Recent graduates and early career professionals

**(8-week programme) -
Launching Summer 2025**

Note:

- Upon the launch of all tracks in Summer of 2025, this will be a multi-disciplinary programme and candidates from all educational backgrounds are welcome to apply. Therefore, should others wish to apply, the programme will be open to students from other disciplines such as business, statistics, mathematics, engineering, computer science, the physical sciences, the social and behavioral sciences and other areas of study.
- Top 10% of eligible and interested high performers from the programme will also gain first access to, and be considered for openings / full time opportunities at CERP.

Why Activate, at CERP?

Applications are now open for Track 1 launching in Summer 2024.

For Track 1 participants, it is a platform to immerse in Pakistan's cultural and development context, and benefit from an **enriching, global experience before entering college**. With the Pakistani diaspora population spread across the world (US, UK, Canada, Europe, Australia and others), it is an opportunity for **students to connect to their hereditary roots and explore a developing country environment while growing in the programme personally and professionally**.

Activate, at CERP is a unique and comprehensive opportunity for individuals with intellectual curiosity and interest in development economics, research and policy analysis to:

1. Gain **hands-on, real-world work experience with placement in rigorous development sector projects** undertaken by CERP ([Health](#), [Education](#), [Climate](#), [Agriculture](#), [Gender](#), others) through analytical and field work in Pakistan
2. Build **employable skills**, apply learnings in real-time, and advance growth to be able



to successfully enter the development or public sectors at international development organisations, government departments, nongovernmental organisations, and bilateral and multilateral development agencies in Pakistan or abroad

3. Network with **award-winning academics, globally recognised experts and international development economists**

The programme is enriched with:

Community Building:

Participants will have a unique opportunity to connect with a myriad of individuals ranging from like-minded programme participants, undergraduate and graduate interns from local and international universities, current employees and senior leadership at CERP during the summer. Outside of CERP, participants will explore the city through a series of planned excursions, recreation activities and a unique lived experience in Lahore, the cultural capital of the country, during the programme to deepen their knowledge and understanding of Pakistan.

Weekly Mentor-Mentee Programme:

All participants will be matched with highly skilled, seasoned professionals in their fields at CERP for career exploration support, higher education guidance, informal training, motivation, direction and advice.

Bi-Weekly Seminar Series:

Every other Friday, interactive sessions on a variety of relevant topics will be held for participants with guest speakers including but not limited to: CERP Board Members, Senior Executives, CERP Research Fellows, CERP Graduate Student Fellows and others.

Group Coaching Session with CERP Board Member(s)



Programme Structure

1. Capacity Building

The programme will be inaugurated with a week-long series of ongoing skills development courses:



Technical Skills: Data Science & Software

This course builds the participants' skill sets in relation to data science and data-driven decision-making to understand the importance and effective use of data and evidence, empowers them to conduct impactful work in the development sector domain in and outside Pakistan, and effectively link theory with real-world policy problems. It enables participants to learn new software and perform data-related tasks, alongside modules on:



Power Skills: Professional & Personal Development

This course builds participants' power skills, essential for long-term success, in the following areas:

Development Sector Fundamentals & Problem Solving

Learn about the landscape and fundamentals of the development sector in Pakistan

Build key skill sets with modules on the introduction to: Data Collection Methods, M&E and Research Ethics

Learn how to employ critical thinking techniques specific to challenges commonly encountered for development, M&E & research sectors in order to assess problems accurately, evaluate alternative solutions and anticipate risks

Workplace Ethics, Etiquette & Career Management Essentials

Learn the art and rules of writing and structuring effective resumes & cover letters, and perfecting the 'elevator pitch'

Learn how to write powerful emails for professional needs, and email etiquette

Understand how to structure responses, perfect delivery, and ace interviews using frameworks, templates, and simulations

Learn how to practice leading without authority

Develop essential internship and job search strategies, and networking techniques and tools

Gain insight into best-in-class time management techniques, SMART goal setting, and frameworks for work planning



Effective Communication: Oral & Written – Presentation & Public Speaking Skills

Strengthen ability to lead and communicate powerfully in different settings with development, public and private sector stakeholders (including but not limited to: NGOs, INGOs, non-profits, government partners, and multilateral institutions)

Learn how to manage voice and pace to become a credible communicator / public speaker with vocal confidence & presence

Learn how to structure a compelling presentation / slide deck using global best practice templates to achieve desired results

Foundations of Negotiation

Prepare for negotiations using a research-based framework and techniques to improve negotiation outcomes – for personal and professional use, and tips on navigating difficult conversations within a negotiation

2. Placement to CERP Projects

As part of the multi-week experiential learning and work experience to learn on the job, participants will be matched to verticals / research projects at CERP based on their skills, interests, preferences and project requirements. As part of their work experience, they will gain hands-on field exposure and experience in the outskirts of Lahore (subject to relevant government approvals for conducting field research and qualitative interviews / surveys). Participants will be assigned a capstone project (including but not limited to: literature reviews, case studies, policy briefs, data collection and cleaning, statistical analysis) to deliver and present to a panel of experts, culminating the end of the programme, in order to allow participants to apply skills learned to a real-world project, under their ownership end-to-end.



Application Process

To apply to the programme, applicants are required to submit the [online application](#) on the CERP website. Interested applicants are welcome to learn more about *Activate, at CERP* through the online information sessions. Prospective candidates are encouraged to apply early as applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis. Upon selection, applicants will be required to submit the relevant fee to confirm their seat in the programme.

Applications Open	Oct 20, 2023
Information Session #1 (Zoom)	Oct 30, 2023 (6 PM - 7 PM Pakistan Standard Time)
Information Session #2 (Zoom)	Nov 20, 2023 (6 PM - 7 PM Pakistan Standard Time)
Applications Close	Dec 10, 2023
Interview Notification	Dec 15, 2023
Final Decision Notification	Dec 20, 2023
Fee Submission Deadline	Dec 30, 2023

Accommodation

Participants are welcome to avail the opportunity to stay with a host family in Lahore for the duration of the programme. CERP will pair participants with a host family (of a CERP employee or of individuals within CERP's network) as a meaningful part of the programme. Host families will provide accommodation, meals, transport, social activities, as well as an authentic experience of Pakistan's culture.

Programme Fee

Track 1	CERP Pre-College Summer Programme	5 weeks	USD \$5,000
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For More Information

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Scan to download the Application Form