

Report



STUDENTS VISIT

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Date Prepared

November 17, 2025

Executive Summary

Career Services Office of Iqra University Islamabad (H-9 Campus), in coordination with the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS), organized a student visit to Data Fest 2025 – a landmark two-day national event held on November 11–12, 2025, at PBS Headquarters, Islamabad.

The event aimed to foster collaboration between government agencies, development partners, academia, and the private sector to promote data-driven governance, innovation, and sustainable development. Students from the Departments of Business Administration and Social Sciences actively participated and represented the university with enthusiasm and professionalism.

Data Fest Visit 2025

63

Total
Participation

26

Department
Social Sciences

37

Department
Business Administration

- **Organized by:** Pakistan Bureau of Statistics
- **Dates:** November 11–12, 2025
- **Venue:** Pak-China Center, Islamabad
- **Participating Departments:** Business Administration and Social Sciences
- **Coordinated by:** Career Services Office



Overview of the Event

Data Fest 2025 inauguration marking the beginning of an extensive lineup of high-impact activities, including panel discussions, workshops, exhibitions, and networking sessions.

More than 35 leading national and international organizations participated in the event, including:



State Bank of Pakistan (SBP), Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP), National Database and Registration Authority (NADRA), United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF), Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), World Bank, Competition Commission of Pakistan (CCP), Pakistan Software Export Board (PSEB), Punjab Information Technology Board (PITB), Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries (SESRIC), Space and Upper Atmosphere Research Commission (SUPARCO), and several other key stakeholders from academia, government, and the private sector.

Key Activities and Highlights

Opening Ceremony and Inaugural Sessions

The event commenced with registration and a welcome address, followed by the inauguration by Minister for Planning, Development & Special Initiatives. The ceremony also included the signing of multiple MOUs between PBS and partner organizations, and the launch of the National Data Dashboard — an initiative to centralize and modernize data management for national development planning.

The event featured multiple thematic panels across both days, focusing on national priorities such as economic equity, education reform, trade, agriculture, and data governance.

Prominent panel themes included:

- Rethinking NFC for Equity and Balanced Development
- From Enrolment to Learning
- Data for Growth, Productivity, Trade & Investment
- Strengthening Disaster Risk Preparedness and Adaptation Mechanisms
- Strengthening Pakistan's Agriculture through Technology and Policy Innovation
- Data to Decisions: Integrating AI and Big Data for Pakistan's Statistical System

Guest speakers and data experts from World Bank, State Bank, SECP, and SUPARCO shared insights on leveraging technology and data for national development, offering students valuable perspectives on real-world applications of data analytics.

Over 50 exhibition stalls and demonstration booths showcased innovative data projects, digital products, and research initiatives from various institutions. Students explored solutions developed by PBS, PITB, and other organizations focused on sustainable technology and public policy innovation.

Key Activities and Highlights

The event facilitated rich networking opportunities, allowing students to interact with professionals from top organizations such as SESRIC, CCP, SECP, and PBS. Informal sessions and the networking dinner provided an excellent platform for dialogue on emerging data trends, policy frameworks, and youth employment prospects.

Learning Outcomes and Impact

The visit to Data Fest 2025 provided Iqra University students with an invaluable opportunity to:

- Understand the structure and functioning of data-based policy planning in Pakistan.
- Learn about technological innovation and AI integration in governance and industry.
- Interact with experts from international organizations and leading public sector bodies.
- Explore career pathways in data analytics, research, economics, and public policy.
- Witness firsthand the collaboration between government, academia, and industry for a data-driven future.

Students expressed high appreciation for the exposure, particularly the sessions led by PBS, SECP, and the State Bank, which deepened their understanding of how data informs economic and social decision-making.

Conclusion

Iqra University H-9 Campus students visit to Data Fest 2025 was a resounding success, reflecting the university's commitment to fostering experiential learning and bridging the gap between classroom knowledge and industry practice. The collaboration with the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics provided students with a unique learning experience that will contribute to their professional development and academic enrichment.