



WHY BS-SOCIAL SCIENCES AND LIBERAL ARTS

AT IBA?

The BS Social Sciences and Liberal Arts (SSLA) program offers interdisciplinary training across social sciences and humanities. With majors in Psychology, Political Science, Media and Culture, and History, it builds strong analytical, research, and communication skills. Students complete internships, foreign language study, and an optional final-year research project, preparing them for diverse careers in research, development, education, and the corporate sector.

- 124 credit hours, capstone project, research internship
- 4 years Full-time completion time
- Interdisciplinary and language learning
- Core and elective SSLA courses
- Critical thinking and research skills
- Broad interdisciplinary exposure

SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS & SOCIAL SCIENCES



IBA is located in Karachi — the financial hub of Pakistan — and is one of the country's most prestigious higher education institutions.

Its School of Economics and Social Sciences (SESS) is a dynamic academic hub that brings together two departments, two research centers, and three specialized labs. The school hosts over 1,000 students with a balanced male-to-female ratio (48:52), fostering diversity and inclusivity. With 45+ PhD faculty members, SESS emphasizes academic rigor, research excellence, and global engagement. Students benefit from international exchange opportunities, research grants, and vibrant campus life. SESS maintains global connections with a 1,200+ strong alumni network across the US, UK, Germany, Turkey, Canada, and beyond—many of whom have pursued graduate studies on prestigious scholarships like Fulbright, Erasmus, DAAD, and Chevening.



COURSE STRUCTURE

SEMESTER 1

- Calculus
- Critical Reading and Writing
- Fundamentals of Sociology
- Introduction to Historical Methods
- History of Ideas
- College Algebra*

SEMESTER 3

- Speech Communication
- Statistical Inference
- Pakistan History
- Islamic Scholarly Traditions (IST/Philosophy Logic and Ethics (PLE)
- Natural Science Elective
- Introduction to Social and Cultural Anthropology

SEMESTER 2

- Intro to Statistics
- Rhetorical Modes of Writing
- Intro to Psychology
- South Asian History
- Information & Communication Technology

SEMESTER 4

- Entrepreneurship
- Civic & Community Engagement
- Introduction to Media & Culture
- Introduction to Political Science
- Introduction to Urban Studies
- Introduction to Literary Studies

ELECTIVE COURSES

The BS Social Science and Liberal Arts students can customize their studies through major and minor electives. Those with a CGPA of 3.0 and an A- in Capstone may undertake a two-semester research project or opt for two SSLA electives. Minor track students complete at least three electives after the core course, selected from a mix of existing and new offerings.

SCHOLARSHIPS, GRANTS & FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Installment Plan: The students can apply for 2-3 installments per semester. However, the installments must be paid within the same semester.

Qarz-e-Hasna: The IBA facilitates its students in securing an interest-free loan (Qarz-e-Hasna) to pay their tuition fee during their study period.

Need-based Financial Assistance: The IBA encourages aspiring students from diverse social backgrounds to enroll and study at the IBA.

Research & Teaching Assistantships (RA/TA): IBA offers part-time, paid opportunities for students to work as Research Assistants (RAs) or Teaching Assistants (TAs) as part of its financial assistance and academic enrichment initiatives.

SUMMER SEMESTER : Internship

Responsible Citizen Initiative, commonly known as Social Internship, is a 6-week mandatory social internship required for all students enrolled in their undergraduate programs. The students need to work in a social sector organization, NGO, community-based organization, or any charitable institute in Pakistan, ideally during the summer break or during their studies.

SEMESTER 5

- Major Core I
- Major Core II
- Foreign Language I*
- Computational Research Methods
- Humanities Elective I

SUMMER SEMESTER : Internship

Students must engage in a Corporate or Research internship of 03 credit hours after completing their 6th semester of coursework, preferably during the summer break. A faculty member from SSLA will grade them.

SEMESTER 7

- Major Elective II
- Major Elective III
- Major Elective IV
- Visual Studies Elective
- SSLA Elective (for students not pursuing research)
- Culminating Experience (for students pursuing research)

SEMESTER 6

- Major Core III
- Research Methods Course
- Major Elective I
- Foreign Language II
- Interdisciplinary Elective
- Personal Effectiveness Workshops

SEMESTER 8

- Major Elective V
- Major Elective VI
- Humanities Elective II
- SSLA Elective (for students not pursuing research)
- Culminating Experience (for students pursuing research)



ACADEMIC ENVIRONMENT

INTERDISCIPLINARY LEARNING & CRITICAL THINKING

At IBA, the SSLA program fosters a rich interdisciplinary environment that integrates the social sciences and humanities. Students engage with diverse perspectives across political science, psychology, media, and history, cultivating strong analytical, research, and problem-solving skills essential for addressing complex societal issues.

RESEARCH-DRIVEN & FIELD-BASED TRAINING

IBA emphasizes experiential learning through access to research labs, internships, and community-based projects. SSLA students develop hands-on skills in research design and data interpretation, with exposure to real-world applications through the Culminating Experience, workshops, and field assignments.

SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY & PURPOSEFUL ENGAGEMENT

Aligned with IBA's commitment to ethical leadership and civic impact, the SSLA program encourages students to explore global and local challenges—from human rights and urban development to cultural change. Through internships and coursework, students contribute to meaningful change with empathy, inquiry, and informed action.



CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

The students enrolled in the BS Social Sciences and Liberal Arts program are equipped with interdisciplinary knowledge and diverse skills, preparing them for a variety of impactful career paths across sectors.

- Research & Policy Analyst
- Media and Communications Specialist
- NGO & Development Sector Professional
- Social Researcher
- Cultural & Heritage Program Associate
- Public Affairs or Advocacy Officer

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

- Applicants must have secured a minimum of 60% marks in their HSSC or an equivalent qualification from a recognized educational board or institution.
- Admission is granted based on overall performance in the IBA Aptitude Test and a subsequent interview conducted by the admissions committee.

APTITUDE TEST EXEMPTION

Candidates may be exempted from the IBA Aptitude Test for the BS Social Science and Liberal Arts program if they submit a minimum SAT score (based on merit), an ACT composite score of 28, or equivalent international qualifications. However, exemption is competitive, and appearing for the IBA Aptitude Test is strongly encouraged to enhance admission chances.



<https://ssla.iba.edu.pk/>

FOR MORE INFORMATION



Main Campus

University Enclave, University Road,
Karachi - 75270 Pakistan
Phone : +92-(21) 3810-4700

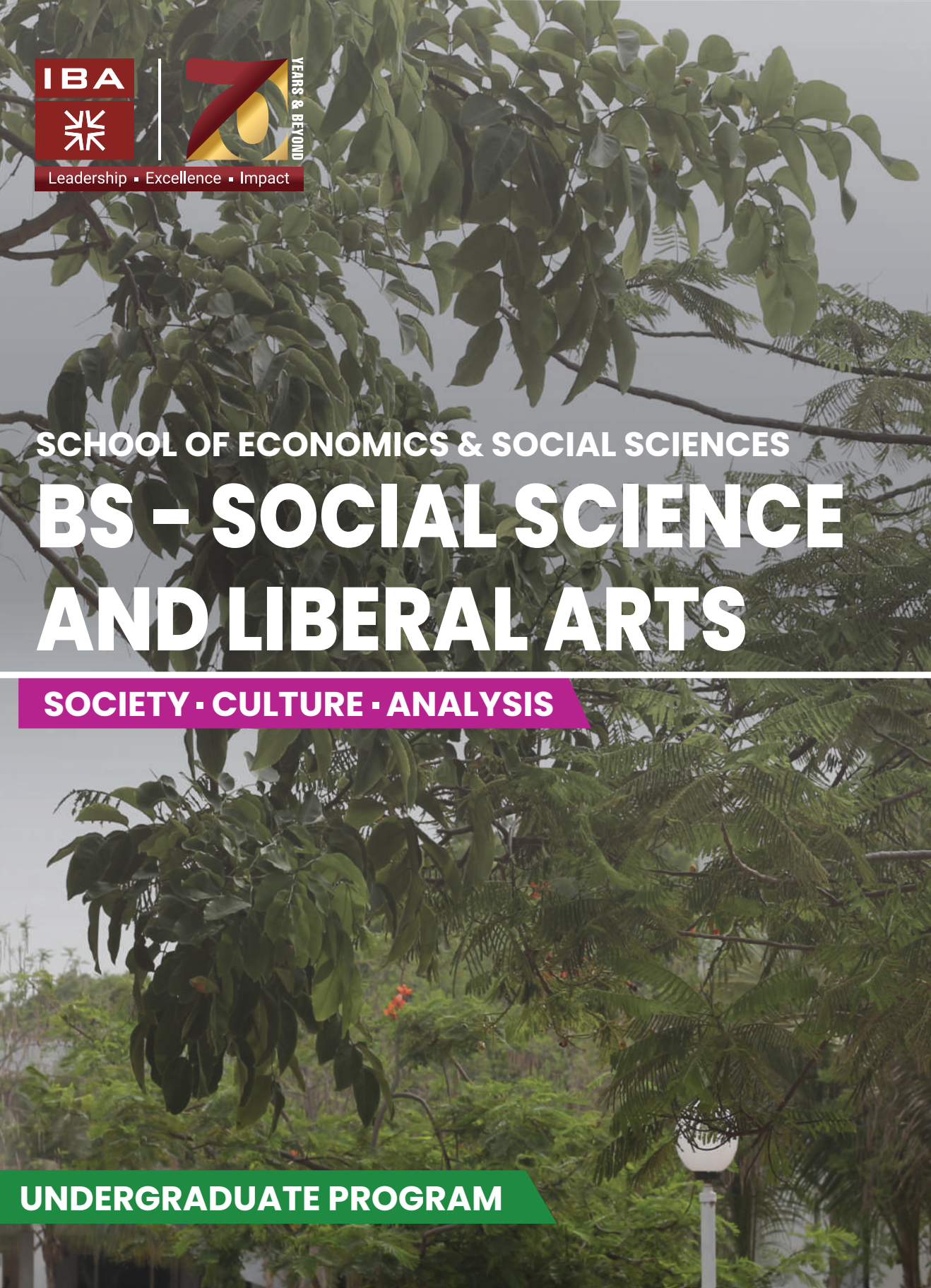
www.iba.edu.pk

+92 21 111 422 422

City Campus

Plot # 68 & 88 Garden / Kayani
Shaheed Road, Karachi - 74400 Pakistan
Phone : +92-(21) 3810-4701

[f](#) [x](#) [in](#) [ig](#) [yt](#) [t](#) **ibakhiofficial**



SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS & SOCIAL SCIENCES BS - SOCIAL SCIENCE AND LIBERAL ARTS

SOCIETY · CULTURE · ANALYSIS

UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAM