

MPHIL IN **COMPARATIVE HUMANITIES**

MUSHTAQ AHMAD GURMANI
SCHOOL OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES (MGSHSS)

Launched in 2025, the **MPhil Comparative Humanities** (MPhil CH) at the Mushtaq Ahmad Gurmani School of Humanities and Social Sciences (MGSHSS), LUMS, is a pioneering interdisciplinary programme in Pakistan. Designed for both fresh graduates and professionals, it blends rigorous scholarship in history, literature, and religion to prepare students for careers in academia, research, and cultural policy.

WHY MPHIL COMPARATIVE HUMANITIES AT LUMS?

The programme provides an unparalleled learning opportunity with access to:

- Highly qualified faculty from top global institutions specialising in history, literature, religion, and critical theory
- Critical engagement with postcolonial thought, vernacular canons, religious studies, and historiography
- High-quality research funded by reputed international and national organisations, donors, and government sectors
- Personalised interaction with faculty and area experts due to controlled class size
- Interdisciplinary training that challenges traditional disciplinary boundaries and Eurocentric frameworks
- Archival research opportunities with training in multilingual, multi-archival methodologies
- Preparation for PhD programmes in history, literature, religious studies, and related fields at top-ranked universities

PROGRAMME STRUCTURE

CORE COURSES

- Approaches in Comparative Humanities
- Social and Political Theory

ELECTIVES

Students take six elective courses across history, literature, and religion, curating coherence in at least two concentration areas through courses such as Subaltern Studies, Islamic Modernisms, Reading the Colonial Archive, Philosophy of Religion, Print Cultures of the Global South, and Decolonial Aesthetics.

THESIS

Students complete a thesis under joint supervision from advisors in at least two major fields (history, literature, religion), incorporating archival work and refined language skills.

CONCENTRATION AREAS

LITERATURE

Transcending national boundaries, students engage with anglophone and vernacular literatures, postcolonial thought, imperial knowledge systems, eco-criticism, poetics of non-Western traditions, and visual cultures of the Global South.

RELIGION

Students analyse religious thought, phenomena, spaces, and histories through phenomenological, historical, and text-critical approaches, studying Philosophy of Religion, Sufism, Islamic Modernism, Religious Ethics, and Hermeneutics.

HISTORY

Students undertake deep archival work drawing on multilingual primary sources, examining colonial archives, personal papers, vernacular sources, and government records to investigate social transformations and political movements.

CAREER PROSPECTS

- Academic and research institutes, as well as consulting firms
- International and local organisations in the development and cultural sectors
- Museums, archives, and heritage organisations
- Publishing houses and media organisations
- Educational institutions as educators and curriculum developers
- PhD programmes at top-ranked universities globally



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